The Bombay Gazette.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY.—PRICE 8 ANNAS.

THE INDIAN RAILWAY TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

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DEPARTURES FOR EUROPE.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	SATURDAY, 2 P.M.
B.M.L. PENINSULAR	5287	W. A. Wheler	6th Feb.
* SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	13th ,,
B.M.* INDIA	8060	R. F. Briscoe	20th ,,
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. DeHorne	27th ,,
M.L. CALEDONIA	7558	W. B. Andrews	6th March.
* SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	13th ,,
M.* AUSTRALIA	6901	L. Reeves	20th ,,
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. DeHorne	27th ,,
M.L. INDIA	8000	R. F. Briscoe	3rd April.
* SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	10th ,,
M.L. PENINSULAR	5287	W. A. Wheler	17th ,,
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. De Horne	24th ,,
M.L. AUSTRALIA	6901	L. Reeves	1st May.
* SHANNON	4189	E. Crewe	8th ,,
M.L. CALEDONIA	7558	W. B. Andrews	15th ,,

The Steamer marked B.M.L. proceeds to BRINDISI, MARSEILLES and LONDON.

The Steamer marked B.M.* proceeds to BRINDISI and MARSEILLES only.

The Steamers marked * proceed to Aden only, and Passengers tranship there to a Steamer for BRINDISI and LONDON.

The Steamers marked M.L. proceed to MARSEILLES and LONDON, Passengers for BRINDISI transhipping at Port Said.

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Bombay, 31st January, 1897.

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Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	H.P.	To Sail on
IMPERATOR	G. Nicolich	4,1 9	750	1st Mar. 1897.
IMPERATRIX	T. Rassevich	4,213	750	1st Apl. 1897.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck
TRIESTE, VENICE, Or BRINDISI	Rs. 600	Rs. 326	Rs. 160

Steamers for BOMBAY leave TRIESTE on the 3rd, and BRINDISI on the 4th of each month.

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Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	H.P.	To Sail on
MARQUIS BACQUEHEM	G. Costanzo	4,109	350	8th Feb.
MEDUSA	G. Wallnsching	3,706	350	7th March.

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TRIESTE or VENICE	Rs. 375	Rs. 150

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A Surgeon and a Stewardess on board of every Steamer.

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By either Accelerated or Ordinary Service to TRIESTE.

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Steamer	Captain.	Tons.	H.P.	To Sail on
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FOR KURRACHEE AND PERSIAN GULF.

S. S. "KILWA," 1,552 tons, on the 4th February, at noon, calling at Kurrachee, Muscat, Jask, Bunder Abbas, Linga, Bahrein, Bushire, Fao, and Busreh, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR COAST PORTS AND RANGOON.

A Steamer on or about 10th February.

FOR ADEN, LAMOO, MOMBASSA, AND ZANZIBAR.

S. S. "CANARA," 1,902 tons, on or about 27th February.

FOR SEYCHELLES, MOMBASSA, ZANZIBAR AND DELAGOA BAY.

S. S. "CHYEBASSA," 2,663 tons, on or about 16th February, calling at Seychelles, Mombassa, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Beira, Inhambane, and Delagoa Bay in the foregoing or any order.

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SYDNEY	4232	Aubert	19th Feb. 1897.
CALEDONIEN	4232	Blanc	19th Mar. ,,
MELBOURNE	4080	Duchateau	16th April ,,

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Vessel.	Capt.	Tons.	To sail on or about
ERNEST-SIMONS	de Maubenge	5,707	11th Feb 97

Four weekly departures thereafter.

Passengers for Australia Tranship at Colombo.

A steam launch from Ballard Pier will convey Passengers on Board. Heavy baggage to be sent on board on the day of departure between 8 and 10 a.m.

The S.S. "PERSEPOLIS," Captain Etienne, WILL LEAVE BOMBAY for PERSIAN GULF on or about the 20th February, 1897.

N.B.—RETURN TICKETS TO MARSEILLES for four six and twelve months delivered at specially REDUCED RATES.

THROUGH TICKETS are issued, including Railway Fares, from Marseilles to London.

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FRESH SUPPLY OF MODELS.

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Prize Cups	18 to 50
Butter Dishes, Revolving	15 to 30
Claret Jugs	15 to 25
Trays Waiters and Salvers	14 to 115
Fruit stands	15 to 100
Sugar Boxes	7 to 10
Ice Cream Plates	5
Sardine Boxes	20 to 30
Inkstands	9 to 70
Table Lamps	25 to 50
Nut Crackers	4 to 6
Smokers' Sets	20 to 60
Ice Water Jugs	45 to 95
Egg Boilers with Spirit Lamp	10 to 30
Asparagus Tongs	13
Soup Tureens	5 to 10
Venison Dishes	90
Spoons, Knives and Forks, per dozen	14 to 25
Fish Knives in Cases	50 to 120
Fruit Spoons	20 to 50
Tea Sets in Cases	70 to 125
Biscuit Boxes	15 to 50
Salt Cellars in Cases	12 to 45
Silting Tea Kettles with Spirit Lamp	40
Cruet Frames	15 to 80
Egg Frames	20 to 60
Ice Buckets	12 to 28
Ice Tongs	5
Ice Bowls	18
Wine Services	50 to 100
Cigar Lighters	9
Flower Stands	15 to 65
Ash Trays	2 to 6
Napkin Rings	2 to 8
Toast Racks	10 to 20
Candle Sticks with Shades	12 to 48
Salt Cellars	4 to 8
Christening Mugs	9 to 25
Salad Bowls	35 to 45
Call Gongs	15 to 30
Cake or Bread Trays	25 to 65
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Vegetable Dishes	55 to 70
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Dessert Knives in Cases	40 to 110
Tentalus	40 to 70
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REDUCED PRICES.

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ROAST MUTTON	per tin	0	9
BOILED do.	,,	0	9
CORNED do.	,,	0	9
SPICED MUTTON	per tin	0	9
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Per Doz. Tins Assorted, Rs. 6-0.

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UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF
MR. ARTHUR FAWCETT.

LYRIC AND DRAMATIC

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.
AN ANTIDOTE FOR THE PLAGUE.

THE

STRAND
STRAND
STRAND
STRAND
} Left London September 18. COMEDY COMPANY Arrived Bombay, October 18.

TIVOLI THEATRE.
TIVOLI THEATRE.
TIVOLI THEATRE.

SATURDAY NEXT, FEBRUARY 6TH.

OPENING PROGRAMME:
A Fracical Comedy in 3 Acts,
Entitled
"MY ARTFUL VALET"
(Now the rage in London.)
To be followed by
A MUSICAL MELANGE.
Contributed by
The Full Strength of the Company.
12 ARTISTES 12

N. B.—This Company left London on September 18 and arrived at Bombay on October 18.
Box Office at SOUNDY & Co., Sirdar's Buildings.
The Programme will be published in *extenso*, on Friday and Saturday.
The Refreshment Bar will be under competent Management. Only First Class Brands of Liquors supplied.
Prices of Admission as usual at this Theatre.

DOUGLAS HAMILTON,
Lessee and Director.
ARTHUR FAWCETT,
Business Manager.

BY order of HIS HIGHNESS the Maharaja of Bhavnagar the following RULES for QUARANTINE against PLAGUE will have effect from this date and until further notice.

1. All vessels arriving at any of the ports of Bhavnagar from Bombay or Karachi shall be subject to these rules, and Commanders of any vessels coming from these proscribed ports shall on approaching the Harbour indicate the same by hoisting a yellow flag. The yellow flag shall remain flying until permission is given by the Port Authorities to take it down.

2. All instructions respecting these rules, and the enforcing of the same, is hereby entrusted to the Port Officer where there is one, and to Customs Vahivatdar of the port concerned where there is no separate Port Officer.

3. Full Quarantine which requires complete isolation of the vessel, or person or thing carried by the same, for a period of eight clear days from date of the vessel leaving the infected port, shall be imposed when the Port Authorities are satisfied that a case of plague has occurred since the date of leaving the infected port; and such period of isolation shall further be renewed for a similar period from date of every fresh case afterwards.

4. The rigour of full Quarantine can only be reduced or modified on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of the State.

5. All vessels flying the yellow flag shall promptly take up such anchorage or moorings as may be assigned by the Port Authorities in each case.

6. When in full Quarantine:—

(a) Passengers shall be landed and placed under observation for a period of eight clear days in such manner and at such places as the Port Authorities may direct: sick persons shall be removed for treatment to a special hospital prepared for the purpose.

(b) No member of the crew shall be allowed to land, nor get into any vessel or lighter alongside.

(c) Any person going on board any vessel in Quarantine, from the shore or other vessel not in Quarantine, must remain there.

(d) All supplies required by the Master or crew shall be passed up the side of the vessel in receptacles which shall not be received back while such vessel is in Quarantine.

(e) Cargo can be discharged into or taken on board from lighters alongside, provided the crew sling or stow the same. Labourers for this purpose taken on board must remain there.

(f) No communication other than oral shall be allowed with the shore from boats alongside or with any vessel not similarly placed.

7. When vessels arrive with no cases of plague on board, and the Medical Officer of the State is satisfied that it will not be necessary to impose full Quarantine, an inspection of passengers and crew will be made on board and a second scrutiny made as passengers are landed.

8. Under no circumstances will passengers be allowed to land, or Cargo to be landed, from a vessel arriving from an infected port, except between the hours of 7 A. M. and 6 P. M.

9. All Cargo landed from vessels arriving from the infected ports shall be subject to such precautions as the Chief Medical Officer of the State may deem necessary. Grain bags particularly shall be spread over sites reserved for the purpose, and when found moist, dried before being handed over to the Consignee.

10. Rags, second-hand clothes, and bedding will not be allowed to be landed; and if landed, shall be burnt or otherwise destroyed.

11. Grain found to be unfit for human food will be destroyed.

12. It will be the duty of the Customs Upri to facilitate the conveyance to all vessels in Quarantine of such supplies of provisions, stores and other articles as may be required by those on board. Such supplies will be placed on the boats of the vessels in Quarantine to be subsequently removed by members of their crews.

13. Any violation of these rules or concealment of facts connected therewith will subject the offender to heavy fines and imprisonment.

VITHALDAS SAMALDAS,
Dewan and Senior Councillor, Bhavnagar State.
Bhavnagar, 28th January, 1897.

R. SCOTT & CO., M. R. C. V. S., GIRGAUM VETERINARY AND COMMISSION STABLES.

OLDEST ESTABLISHED FIRM IN BOMBAY,

CHARGERS, Polo-Ponies, Hacks and Carriage Horses Selected for Local and Up-country constituents. Horses shod on the most approved principles under Personal Supervision.

Horses broken to single (Rs 15), and double Harness (Rs. 30, and Saddle (Rs. 15), Raw Walers Charged extra. Horses standing on Commission Sale, or for treatment—

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At Livery, including Syce, per mensem	35	0
Commission of Horses Bought or Sold	17	0
Examination and Certificate	10	0
Verbal opinion as to Soundness	5	0
Crushed Horse food, best in the market, per cwt. Rs.	6	

Special mixtures Crushed Oats, Bran, etc., supplied.

NOTICE.

THE follwing Sales by PUBLIC AUCTION for the 12 months, commencing from 1st April, 1897, will be held at the Office of and before the HuzurDeputy Collector, Kolaba, on the 12th February, 1897, at 11 A.M.

1. Ferry-farms in the Kolaba Collectorate.
2. Right of Collecting Road-tolls in the Kolaba Collectorate.
3. Right of removing Earth, Sandstone, and Pearl-shells from all the creeks of the Kolaba Collectorate.

For further particulars application should be made to the Undersigned.

V. H. SHIKHARE,
Huzur Deputy Collector, Kolaba.
Alibag, 20th January, 1897.

B. N. CHANDIK'S

PLAGUE DESTROYER

NOT TO BE TAKEN INTERNALLY.
TO BE USED
For White-washing and Burning Purposes as Directed.
Most Powerful Disinfectant.
Once Used Sure to Drive the Plague Away.
Tried and Found Effective.

NOTE.

Whitewash with B. N. Chandik's Wash Powder and Burn B. N. Chandik's Plague Destroyer as per directions.

Wash Powder, One Tin of 1 lb. Rs. 1-12.
Plague Destroyer, One Tin of 1 lb. Rs. 2-10.
Apply to B. N. CHANDIK, Madras.
And Messrs. N. POWELL and Co., Bombay.

NOTES.

INDIAN LAND REVENUE,

FOR PRINCIPLE AND SOUND POLICY
BY
TODARMAL.
Price, Re. 1. Postage half-anna.
Copies can be had at Office the *Bombay Gazette*

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

S. S. "CITY OF PERTH" ARRIVED 3rd FEBRUARY, 1897.

CONSIGNEES are requested TO TAKE DELIVERY of their Cargo from the Prince's Dock. Chafed or Broken Packages must be surveyed before removal from the Landing Shed. The Undersigned decline to survey Goods removed to the Unclaimed Warehouse.

Lifts exceeding 30 cwts. will be delivered into Consignees' Boats, and, if not alongside in time, will be landed or placed in Boats at Steamer's option, at their risk and expense.

Captain CLARK will attend every morning to survey Damages, &c., and all Claims must be certified to by him, and sent in within a month of Steamer's ARRIVAL, or they will not be paid.

FORBES, FORBES & Co., LIMITED,
Agents.
Bombay, 3rd February, 1897.

THE CITY OF BOMBAY MUNICIPAL ACT 1888.
(SECTION 434.)

WHEREAS I am of opinion that the ordinary provisions of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888, in regard to cutting off private water connections, are during the present outbreak of BUBONIC PLAGUE, in some cases insufficient, I do hereby give Public Notice that with the sanction of Government, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 434 of the said Act, I shall, whenever it shall appear to me necessary in the PUBLIC INTERESTS so to do so, take the following special measures in regard to the closing of water connections in private premises viz.:— whenever I shall be satisfied upon the representation of the Health Officer, that any water connection inside any House, Chawl, or other premises is likely to be detrimental to the health of persons residing there or in the neighbourhood thereof, I shall cause a standpipe or other suitable accommodation to be provided or affixed outside such house, chawl, or premises, and I shall thereupon cause the water connection with the interior of such premises to be cut off.

P. C. H. SNOW,
Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay.
Municipal Offices, Bombay, 3rd February, 1897.

THE S. S. "MASCOTTE," has arrived from RANGOON and MOULMEIN, and DISCHARGES in the Stream.

Consignees are requested to present their BILLS of LADING for our COUNTERSIGNATURE, and to TAKE DELIVERY of their CARGO without delay.

Consignees are notified that the whole of the Cargo will be remeasured before delivery when they are requested to have their representatives on board to watch the measurement on their behalf. All Claims must be presented before the Sailing of the Steamer, otherwise none will be Entertained.

TURNER, MORRISON & Co.
Agents.
Bombay, 3rd February, 1897.

NOTICE.

THE right of removing earth, sand, &c., from all the Creeks in the Kolaba Collectorate, except that of removing stones for ballast from Gharapuri, in Panvel Taluka, and pearl shells from all the CREEKS in the Kolaba Collectorate, will be sold by public auction at the office and before the Huzur Deputy Collector, Kolaba, on the 8th March, 1897, at 11 a.m., instead of on the 12th February, 1897, as previously intimated. (Vide the notice dated the 20th January, 1897.

V. H. SHIKHARE,
Huzur Deputy Collector, Kolaba.
Alibag, 30th January, 1897.

THE S. S. "FERNFIELD" has ARRIVED from LONDON and ANTWERP, and DISCHARGES in the VICTORIA DOCK.

Consignees are requested to present their BILLS of LADING for our COUNTERSIGNATURE, and TO TAKE DELIVERY of their GOODS without Delay.

Packages exceeding 30 cwts. in weight will be landed on the Quay at the risk and expense of Consignees, unless Boats are sent alongside to take delivery without delay.

Consignees are hereby expressly notified that all Claims for Damage must be adjusted by the Steamer's Surveyor before the Goods are removed from the Landing Shed. The Undersigned decline all responsibilities in respect of Goods removed to the unclaimed Warehouse. All claims must be presented before the sailing of the Steamer, otherwise none will be entertained.

Captain Macaulay will attend every morning to survey Damages.

MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & Co.,
Agents.
Bombay, 1st February, 1897.

SALES BY AUCTION.

MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON & Co.,
No. 4, FORBES & MEDOWS STREETS, FORT.

SALE OF COAL ASHES.

Under instructions from P. C. H. Snow, Esq., C. S., Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, Messrs. MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON and Co. will sell by Public Auction THIS DAY, THURSDAY, the 4th instant, at 3 p.m., at Colaba Compressor Station—A lot of coal ashes.

MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON & CO.
Bombay, 4th February, 1897.

ORIENTAL GOVERNMENT SECURITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

ALL
INTENDING ASSURERS
Should send for a Copy of the
NEW SCHEME LEAFLET
which explains
THE MANY ADVANTAGES
UNEQUALLED BENEFITS
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EXCEEDS ONE CRORE AND
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Generous Conditions,
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Immediate Settlement of Claims.

Full Particulars and Forms from
D. McLAUCHLAN SLATER, F.I.A.,
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Extra Superior Dry, Quarts Rs. 76 and Pints Rs. 40 per doz.
For India " .. Rs. 76 .. Rs. 40

For these Cream of Champagnes
Apply to
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THE GREAT AMERICAN REMEDY.

FOR loss of power, weakness, nervousness, low spirits, neuralgia, loss of appetite, premature decay, loss of nerve-power, poorness of blood, nervous exertions, sleeplessness, &c. This medicine is highly approved by

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Specially recommended in cases of loss of power by Brigade-Surgeon

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BEING a Compilation of Decisions, &c., on Questions regarding Giras, Wants, and other Guaranteed Rights with an Introductory Account of the Settlements in Kathiawar, Mahikantha and Rewakantha, together with Appendices and a Copious Index.

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CHAMPAGNE,
in Magnums, Quarts and Pints.

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Sole Agents, Bombay.

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RESERVE FUND £350,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS £800,000

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Colombo.
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T. FRASER,
Acting Agent
Bombay Agency, Elphinstone Circle.

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The Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris beg to draw the attention of Travellers to its Letter of Credit Department in Paris at the Branch Office, 2, Place de l'Opera, in the very centre of the fashionable quarter of Paris, on the Boulevards, facing the Grand Opera, and within easy reach of the principal Hotels, Theatres, and Shops.

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				Rs.	as.
Savoys, Regalia de Preferencia in boxes of	50	....	per box	14	0
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"FLOR DE LA ISABELA" FACTORY.

These can be recommended as good smokes:—

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Regalia Antonio Lopez	in boxes of	50	with rings	....	per box	11	0
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Exquisitas	do.	50	do.	....	,,	7	0
Princessas (small size)	do.	50	do.	....	,,	5	0
Little Devils	do.	50	do.	....	,,	3	0
Club Londres	do.	100	do.	....	,,	7	0
Neuvo Habano Especial	do.	100		....	,,	6	0
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BANKS.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LD.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL £500,000
RESERVE FUND £170,000

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BRANCHES:
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BANKS

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PAID UP CAPITAL... .... „ 4,500,000 = „ 9,000,00
RESERVE FUND.................. „ 4,130,000 = „ 8,260,00

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		Exclusive Reserve Fund
The NORTHERN ASSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	£	3,000,000
The GENERAL INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL, inclg. RESERVE FUND	„	3,000,000
The TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	M	6,000,000
The NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	„	7,500,000
The HAMBURG-BREMEN FIRE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	„	6,000,000
The FIRE INSURANCE Co., of 1877, CAPITAL	„	2,600,000
The BALOISE FIRE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	Frs	10,000,000
The BATAVIA FIRE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	Fl	3,000,000
The SAMARANG FIRE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	„	2,000,000

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The GENERAL MARINE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL, inclg. RESERVE FUND	£	3,000,000
The NEW SWISS-LLOYD TRANSPORT INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	Frs	4,000,000
The BATAVIA MARINE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	Fl	3,000,000
The SAMARANG MARINE INSURANCE Co., CAPITAL	„	2,000,000
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GEORGE TANQUERAY & Co.	London.
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BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 6h. 34m. Sun sets, 5h. 55m. High water, 6-52m., 1-5a. Low water, 6-55m., 6-44a.
First Criminal Sessions, 11 a.m.
Municipal Corporation, 3 p.m.
Bombay Foxhounds Meet, Santa Cruz.
Special Service of Intercession, St. Thomas' Cathedral, 6 p.m.

NOTICE TO JURYMEN.—Gentlemen of the Special Jury are required to attend at the High Court this Thursday) morning, at 11 o'clock.

THE YACHT CLUB REGATTA.—Through the courtesy of Mr. J. A. Shepherd, one of his steamers has been placed at the disposal of the Sailing Committee for the first day of the Regatta on Saturday next. The steamer will leave Apollo Bunder at 2-45 p.m., precisely, and refreshments will be obtainable on board.

ST. TERESA'S ORGAN FUND.—The Revd. G. Simoeus, Chaplain, St. Teresa's, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following contributions towards the Chapel Organ Fund:—Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit, Rs. 50, C. O., Rs. 20, Messrs. D. Cecil Aoworth Alex. J. Agabeg, A Catholic, A Chaplain, D. J. F., Mr. Peter Ferreira, Dr. F. X. Ferreira, G. G., Dr. L. P. Gomes, Rustomjee Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, E. W. K., Messrs. Gordhandas Khatau, G. M. Lalkasan, J. M., de Lima and family, C. B. Lynch, N. D. Maneckjee, G. W. M., Mrs. Cecilia Rodriy gues, Messrs. A. D'Souza and Anthony Fr. D'Souza, each Rs. 10 Messrs. B., G. A. B., J. L. Britto, P. Byrne, C., A Catholic, A Catholic, N. C., Mrs. M. D'Cruz, K. D., Messrs. J. Desmier, J. V. Fernandes, a Friend, a Friend, a Friend, Lewis Gonsalves, C. H., C. J. Hewett, M.H.H., Emilvon Hirsch, F. L., D Misquitta, Nemo, N. D. Nolan, a Non-Catholic, L. C. Pinto, Dr. L. J. Pinto, a Priest, Sir M. R. de Quadros, Dr. J. B. de Quadros, Messrs. F.C. Rimington, Louis P. Russel, Dr. N. F. de Silva, Messrs. Frank de Souza, The Standard Oil Co. of New York, L. M. Valladares, Bhau Mangesh Wagle, and X. Y. Z., each Rs. 5. Amounts below Rs. 5—Rs. 96-8 annas. Total Rs. 558-8

A DISHONEST RENT COLLECTOR.—Before Mr. F. S Taleyarkhan, Fourth Presidency Magistrate, at the Mazagon Police Court, yesterday, Inspector Henry Brewin prosecuted Moorar Harri, a ghorwala, in the service of Mr. Jehanghir Shavaksha Banaji, a Parsee, residing at Gowalia Tank Road, on a charge of criminal breach of trust as a servant, in respect of Rs. 147, belonging to his master, the complainant. The accused had been collecting rents of the stables belonging to his master at Modykhana for the last ten years. For the last two months accused did not pay any amount of rent collected by him, and when asked by his master, stated that he had not received the money yet from the occupants of the stables. On being further taxed about it by complainant, accused went to his master on the morning of the 24th ultimo and told him that he had been robbed of Rs. 147 by three Mahomedans at Kennedy Bridge that morning. Complainant reported the matter to the police, who on an inquiry ascertained that the complaint was false. Accused pleaded guilty to the charge. His Worship convicted him, and taking into consideration that he had served complainant for the last ten years, sentenced him to one day's imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs 200, with the alternative to suffer five months' rigorous imprisonment. Out of the amount of the fine, if recovered, Rs. 147 were ordered to be paid to complainant.

OBITUARY.—A correspondent writes: We regret to announce the death, on Sunday, at the age of fifty-nine, of pneumatic fever, of Bai Laxmibai alias Dhakiibai, the wife of Rao Bahadur Bhaskerrao Balcrishnajee Pitale, J. P., Baroda State Vakil. She was the surviving eldest daughter of the late Hon'ble Jagonnathjee Shunkerseth. Mrs. Bhaskerrao was one of the first students of the Literary and Scientific Society, where the respected lady carried several of the best prizes. Her piety, benevolence, and orthodox principles and learning made her an ornament in her own community and the society at large. Her wholesome advise to Ranees and other ladies of nobles, &c., was greatly valued. She was respected and esteemed as the head in both Shunkerseth's and Pitale's families. Drs. H. P. Dimmock and Bhalchandra attended during her short illness of five days. Her funeral was impressive, and attended by her many relations and friends. She leaves behind a son, Balcrishnarao, her daughter-in-law, Bai Maneckbai, her deeply grieved husband, her only sister, Bai Nanubai D. Pitale, her sister-in-law, Mistress Luxmibai V. J. Shunkerseth, and a very large circle of relations, mourners and friends, who greatly deplore the sad loss. Some shops on Pollen Roads were closed for three days. During the last four weeks there have been six deaths in the family of R. B. Pitale, for whom much sympathy is felt.

A JOURNEY INTERRUPTED.—At the Mazagon Police Court, yesterday, Superintendent McDermott charged Bhowanishunker Keshow, a servant in the employ of Mr. Maneckji Merwanjee Dalal, a Parsee, residing at Girgaum Back Road, before Mr. W. R. Hamilton, Second Presidency Magistrate, with theft as a servant of gold, diamond and pearl jewellery, of the aggregate value of Rs. 8,195, belonging to his master, the complainant. The accused, who is aged about twenty years, is a convert to Mahomedanism and was taken by the complainant in his service about a fortnight ago. On the 31st ultimo the accused broke open his master's box, and having abstracted the property absconded from Bombay. In consequence of a telegram forwarded from the police authorities here, the absconder was arrested at the Surat railway station on Tuesday morning, with a portion of the stolen property and a third-class ticket from Bandora to Wadhwan in his possession, and brought down to Bombay and handed over to Superintendent McDermott. The accused stated that he had given the remaining portion of the property to one Mahomed Oosman Sholapurwalla, a public conveyance driver, residing at Bandora. During the course of the police enquiries it was also ascertained that Mahomed Oosman, the receiver of the stolen property, left Bandra for Poona on Tuesday morning in company of his wife, two children and his sister-in-law, and two Mahomedans. On the receipt of this information, an urgent telegram was despatched to the District Superintendent of Police, Poona, asking him to arrest Mahomed Oosman. On the application of the police, the case was remanded.

THE WEATHER.

OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 8 A.M., ON WEDNESDAY THE 3RD OF FEBRUARY, 1897.

SUMMARY.

Pressure changes are small and unimportant. Readings are highest in the north and lowest along the coast from Ratnagiri southwards as far round as Madras. Gradients are moderate to slight. Winds are very variable in direction, and the force has been moderate to light. This morning the wind velocity was 8 miles an hour at Deesa, Ghadechi, Neemuch, Ahmednagar and Goa. The maximum temperature is in large excess of the normal at Jeypore, Bangalore, Secunderabad and Bellary and the minimum in large to very large excess at Bellary, Secunderabad, Amraoti, Khanda, Saugor, Ajmere and Jeypore. The highest temperature in the shade was 98° at Cuddapah, and the lowest 43° at Sirsa. Humidity changes are unimportant, and the sikes are cloudy to overcast at Sirsa, Jacobabad, Raipur, Amraoti and Nagpur. There has been no rain at any of the reporting stations. A small areb of abnormally low pressure exists atand about Saugor, Hoshangabad, Nagpur, Amraoti, Akola Khandwa, Sholapur and Secunderabad, where the weather is in a slightly unsettled condition and will become rather cloudy.

W. C. NIGEL JONES,
Acting Meteorological Reporter for Western India

(BY TELEGRAPH)

SIMLA, FEB. 3.

Wednesday: Pressure has changed very slightly during the past twenty-four hours and the distribution, generally similar to that reported yesterday. Readings are highest in the north west and low ove he peninsula and the bay. A shallow depression lies over the Deccan, with its centre near kurnool. Northerly winds prevail over north-western and Central India, southerly winds along the west coast of the Bay and variable winds elsewhere. Force is generally light or moderate. Temperature has fallen in the Punjab, risen in the central parts of the country and been steady elsewhere. Mean temperature is excessive except in Bombay coast districts and central parts of the Punjab where it is low. The Abnormal excess is large in lower Bengal Deccan and Rajputana. Light rain showers has fallen in the following stations Chaman, Qustta, Minimar,g false-pt, Balasore and Jask but elsewhere the weather fine conditions appear quiet generall y.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or falling off, use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it will positively restore in every case, Grey or White hair, to its Original colour without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemists for "The Mexican Hair Renewer," sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere at 3s. 6d. a bottle.—Wholesale Depots 33, Farringdon Road, London, England.

FIRST CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

THE Hon. Sir Charles Farran, Chief Justice, presided at a sitting of the court yesterday.

EXEMPTED FROM SERVICE ON THE JURY.

Mr. Inverarity, instructed by Messrs. Crawford, Burder and Co., applied that Mr. Ezekiel Solomon, road Inspector in the A. ward of the Bombay Municipality, be exempted from service on the Common Jury. An affidavit made by Mr. M. C. Murzban, Executive Engineer, stated that Mr. Solomon had at present important duties to perform, and that by him being taken away from them would be injurious to public interests. His lordship remarked that the work at the present Sessions was so light that one or two jurors might be exempted without difficulty. The application was granted. Mr. G. D. Trayley was also excused for the day.

CAUSING HURT WITH SULPHURIC ACID.

Visram Gopal, a Hindu goldsmith, was charged with having, on the morning of the 5th November last, caused hurt to Sumbhoolal Sawlal and three other persons by throwing sulphuric acid at them. Mr. Rivett-Carnac, instructed by the Public Prosecutor, appeared for the Crown. The prisoner was not defended by counsel.

Mr. Rivett-Carnac briefly stated the facts of the case. On the morning of the 5th November last, as the complainant Sumbhoolal was going out of his room in the same chawl in which the prisoner resided, the latter followed him and struck him with an iron bar from behind. He then ran into his room and bolted the door. A number of persons collected on an alarm raised by Sumbhoolal, and they called upon the prisoner to come out of his room. Prisoner thereupon took up a small bottle and threw sulphuric acid at them, injuring Sumbhoolal and three other persons, who were standing near him. They were all removed to the Jamsetjee Hospital.

Evidence was called for the prosecution.

Sumbhoolal Sawlal, an embroiderer, said he was living in November last in a chawl at Bhendy Bazar, on the ground floor of which the prisoner also lived. On the morning of the 5th November last, as witness was leaving the chawl, the prisoner, who was a goldsmith, came and struck him from behind with an iron bar. Witness pursued him and asked him why he struck him. Prisoner had gone into his room and had bolted the door; and witness spoke to him through a window with iron bars. Other people came there and stood under the verandah. Prisoner threw acid upon witness through the bars of the window, and it fell upon his hand, arm, and the left side of his face. The accused was the only person in the room. Witness tore off his clothes, upon which the acid had fallen, and ran out to call a sepoy. Witness and three other persons, upon whom the acid had fallen, were taken to the hospital. Witness went there every third day for a month or a month and a half. He was in pain for two months and was still unable to do his work. Witness had written to Nanooshah Parashram, Ishwardas Vithaldas, Bissansing and Naransing, who were at Burhanpore; and asked them to come and give evidence in this case, but had received no reply. They had gone away about a month ago on account of the plague and had not returned to Bombay.

Cross-examined by the prisoner: I did not try to entice away your wife. I did not come with ten or twelve persons around with sticks to assault you. We did not try to break open your door.

To the Judge: Prisoner has been living in the chawl for about twelve years. I have been living there about sixteen years. His wife was living with him. She once fell down into a well, and I assisted in taking her out. Her brother afterwards came and took her away to his native country about a month or a month and a half before the acid was thown upon me. I was not on speaking terms with the prisoner, and we never saluted each other.

To the prisoner: I never came to your room. My brother was on speaking terms with you.

At the close of the case, the prisoner, in answer to the court, said he struck Sumbhoolal with an iron road, because he enticed away his wife. A large number of persons afterwards collected near his door and tried to force it open. Sumbhoolal came to his room with several persons armed with sticks. He had nothing more to say.

To the Judge: I was married to my wife three years ago. I had one daughter by her, who is now dead.

At the close of the case, the jury, without retiring found the prisoner guilty of causing grievous hurt by a majority of eight to one, while one found him guilty of causing hurt.

His lordship, in passing sentence, said: Prisoner at the bar, the offence of which you have been found guilty, committed as it was in cold blood, calls for very severe punishment. I take into consideration the fact that, on that morning, you were in great excitement. However the excitement did not justify you to throw the corrosive acid, not only at the person against whom you had a grievance, but also others who had never offended you. I am taking a very lenient view of the case, but I cannot pass upon you a less sentence than two years' rigorous imprisonment, to run from the date when you were arrested.

CUTTING OFF A WIFE'S NOSE.

Vithu Dewjee, a Hindu barber, was charged with voluntarily caussing hurt to his wife Ruckmee, by cutting off her nose with a razor. Mr. Raikes, instructed by the Public Prosecutor, appeared for the Crown. The prisoner was not defended by connsel.

Mr. Raikes told the jury that, unfortunately, all the witnesses were not forthcoming, but still they had enough evidence to prove the charge. Prisoner lived with his wife Ruckmee in the room of a chawl off the De Lisle Road. The adjoining room was occupied by a woman named Gungabai, who had gone away to her native country, while Ruckmee's mother lived a few paces off in another room of the same chawl. On the evening of the 19th November, prisoner had a quarrel with Ruckmee about his meals not being ready. He went away, but returned home about 9 p. m., and continued quarrelling with his wife. Late at night, while she was asleep, he tried to cut her neck, and on hearing an alarm, he cut off her nose with a razor.

Ruckmee, the wife of the accused, said she was living with him in a room of a chawl off the DeLisle Road. On the evening of the day on which her face was cut, the accused complained of her not having cooked his food. She said he had not paid her any money, and she could not buy any food. He left his barber's case in the room and went out. On his return about 9 p.m., he struck her in the chest with his fist. He continued abusing her and would neither sleep nor allow her to sleep. She, however, fell asleep. Shortly afterwards she awoke on feeling a razor across her neck, and cried out to her neighbour that her neck was cut. The prisoner threw her upon her back and cut off her nose. She could not see the instrument because the room was dark. A neighbour opened the door of her room, and witness passed through it. She went to her mother's room and fell down in the doorway. Her mother and her brother came out of their room, lit a lamp, and saw what had been done to her. She was crying. A policeman came to the spot, and she told him that her husband had cut her. She was placed in a carriage and taken to hospital. Before that the prisoner was brought to her, and she identified him.

At the close of the case, the jury, after a short consultation, unanimously found the prisoner guilty of causing grievous hurt.

His lordship, in passing sentence, told the prisoner that cutting off or biting the nose of a wife was a very serious offence, although the former was more serious than the latter. His lordship could not see why he committed the offence. His wife had not given him any cause; and he had probably been brooding that night on his supposed wrong. He was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for three years.

A RASH AND NEGLIGENT ACT.

With reference to the case of Jamal Vazeer, who was committed by the coroner for doing a rash and negligent act, the Advocate-General said that the accused had been placed before the magistrate and sentenced to three months' rigorons imprisonment for the same act, rash and negligent driving; and that he did not propose to further prosecute the accused. His lordship thereupon directed that the accused be not tried again for the same charge. The court adjourned till 11 o'clock this (Thursday) morning.

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BOMBAY.

THE Ordinary monthly meeting of the Society was held in the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society, Town Hall, on Wednesday, the 27th ultimo, when Dr. G. Waters, president, presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The following presents were announced and thanks voted to the donor.

From Nederlandsch-Indie-Bijdragen Tot-de-Taal Land-En Volkenkunde for 1897.

The Hon. Secretary then read "Ethnographical Notes on Kaikadi of Malsiras in the Sholapur district" by Mr. Scott, District Deputy Collector, Sholapur, from information received from Rao Saheb R. N. Abhyanker, Mamlutdar of Malsiras, and also the notes on the "Chitpawan" or Konkanasthas by the Rao Sahebs Hari Ramchandra Takle and Narayen Ganesh Sahasrabudhe Mamlutdars, Kanara district, through the Collector, North Canara.

The full text of these papers will be published in the following Journal of the Society.

The meeting appointed Messrs. K. R. Cama and Bomanji Behramjee Patel as auditors, to audit the Societys accounts.

A vote of thanks to the authors of the papers and the usual compliment to the Chairman, concluded the business of the meeting.

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THE BUBONIC FEVER.

THE Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending 6 a.m., yesterday, give the following results:—

		Attacks.	Deaths.
A	Upper Colaba	0	0
	Middle and Lower Colaba	4	0
	Fort, Southern	0	0
	Fort, Northern	3	2
	Esplanade	0	0
B	Mandvi	0	0
	Chukla	0	0
	Umarkhadi	1	2
	Dongri	5	2
C	Market	3	0
	Dhobi Talao	4	4
	Fanaswadi	2	1
	Bhuleshwar	3	2
	Khara Talao	0	0
	Khumbarwada	0	1
D	Khetwadi	10	5
	Girgaum	1	2
	Chaupati	3	3
	Walkeshwar	7	2
	Mahalakshmi	2	0
E	Mazgaon	14	9
	Tadwadi	0	
	Second Nagpada	2	1
	Kamathipura	6	8
	Tardeo	3	11
	Byculla	15	4
	First Nagpada	5	2
F	Parel	7	7
	Sewri	2	0
	Sion	3	5
G	Mahim	4	6
	Worli	5	5
Water Division		0	0
Non-Resident and Unknown		0	1
Parsee Hospital		0	1
Jain Hospital		0	0
Arthur Road Hospital		0	8
St. George's Hospital		0	1
Servants' Hospital		0	1
	Total	114	98

The total member of deaths from all causes during the twenty-four hours ending at 6 a.m., yesterday, was 285.

George Farrow, a lad, aged fifteen years, son of Mr. A. Farrow, a public accountant and auditor, was, on Tuesday, night conveyed from his father's house, at Clark Road, to the European General Hospital suffering from the bubonic fever. There are at present nine patients under treatment at the hospital.

The Municipal Commissioner visited the low-roofed thatched huts at Niagam, yesterday, as he received report of several plague cases having occurred there. Mr. Snow issued instructions for the adoption of necessary measures, and nearly a hundred labourers were sent out to do the work of cleaning, lime-washing, and disinfecting.

Information received at the Head Police Office showed that 2,300 persons yesterday left Bombay by coasting steamers.

At the European General Hospital, Dr. Arnott has caused well constructed huts to be erected in the compound, to supplement the Infectious wards in case of an emergency from an outbreak of small-pox, or cholera, or an exacerbation of the prevailing sickness. The admissions from bubonic fever in the last three months were:—In November 2; December, 8, January, 15; and February to date, 3;—total 28. The recoveries have been fifty per cent. Only one European born in Europe was brought in, and he recovered. Other patients of pure European blood, born and bred in India, European women and children, are amongst those attacked. In Hongkong the plague spared children, but they have no special immunity in Bombay.

THE SITUATION IN THE JAILS.

Yesterday, two assistants in the hospitals were directed to proceed to the House of Correction to assist Dr. Waters in caring for the victims of the recent outbreak. One of them duly reported himself for duty in the usual way; the other did not appear. He was one of the assistants at the Gooculdas hospital. When he learned that he was detailed for duty in the prison he committed suicide. No new cases have occurred in the House of Correction since Sunday. Another death has taken place among the victims first attacked; he was not inoculated. Professor Haffkine has not inoculated another batch of fifty-six of the healthy prisoners, as has been stated. He re-inoculated that number of prisoners who had been previously operated upon. The reaction was less than on the first occasion. It is a fact to be noted that the water being cut off from the jail, on Friday last, no fresh cases occurred since Sunday.

Mr. Allan F. Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry, yesterday, in the House of Correction, touching the death of Valli Chand, a Mahomedan convict, aged thirty years, undergoing a term of rigorous imprisonment for nine mouths, awarded to him, on the 9th November last, by Mr. Sanders-Slater, for theft. Mr. Vithal Lingoo, first-class hospital assistant, attached to the Jail hospital, stated that the deceased was admitted into the jail isolated shed on the 30th ultimo, suffering from fever, his temperature then being 106°. On the following day he had a bubo on the right groin, which rose in size. On the 2nd instant deceased's temperature came down to 104°, but his pulse became very weak, he grew worse, at 8 p.m. his extremities became cold, and he died at 5 o'clock yesterday morning. The witness was of opinion that death was due to the bubonic fever, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

FURTHER RESTRICTIONS AT ADEN.

A notification issued in the General Department of Government, last evening, reads as follows:—It is hereby notified for general information that quarantine will be imposed on persons landing at Aden up to ten days from date of leaving Bombay or Karachi.

A circular has been issued to the managers of the E. D. Sassoon, Jacob Sassoon, and Alexandra Mills, and the E. D. Sassoon Turkey-Red Dye Works at Mahim, requesting them to give notice to the staff and hands of their respective mills that except those under agreement they will not receive any wages, if the mills are stopped working owing to an insufficient number of operatives.

THE P. & O. COMPANY'S STEAMERS AND THE PESTILENCE.

AN EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENT.

In a special notice issued by the Superintendent of this company it is notified that, in order to snit the convenience of travellers during the prevalence of the existing epidemic in Bombay, the P. & O. Company have arnanged that passengers arriving by the mail trains in Bombay can proceed direct on board the outgoing mail steamers on the morning of sailing, and breakfast and luncheon will be served at the usual hours. A steamer to convey passengers will leave the Ballard Pier at 7-30 a.m.

Heavy baggage must be sent to the Ballard Pier (not Mazagon) before 8 a.m on the day of sailing. Before the departure of the mail steamer, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the Port to hold a medical inspection of the passengers and crew, and it is particularly requested that passengers will muster on the quarter deck at 1-15 p.m. in order that the necessary inspection may take place with as little delay as possible.

THE MAHOMEDAN BURIAL GROUND QUESTION.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CLOSING THEM.

A meeting of Mahomedans—mostly Soonies—numbering about five thousand, was held yesterday afternoon, in the Jumma Musjid to consider the question of closing the Mahomedan graveyards in the city and to petition the Municipal Corporation against closing them. Kazee Shaik Mahomed Murgay was called to the chair. The proceedings were conducted in Urdu language, and good order prevailed throughout. Kazi Abdul Kadur Khatkahtay read one of the handbills, which had been circulated amongst the Mahomedans notifying the convening of the meeting. He said that while the Mahomedans of Bengal had resolved to celebrate on a grand scale the forthcoming jubilee of her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, in June next, the feelings of the Mahomedans of Bombay had been so wounded by the circulation of a report that their graveyards were to be closed, that he (the speaker) did not think the Mahomedans would take so much part in that event. They were the most loyal and law-abiding subjects of her Majesty, but the question of closing their graveyards in the city had wounded their religious feelings and touched every Mahomedan to the quick. It would be a grievous hardship on Mahomedans if the authorities were to shut up the graveyards and to compel them to carry the corpses of their relatives a long distance outside the city. During the present epidemic when the Mahomedans were dying by hundreds, it would be difficult to find men to carry the dead to such a long distance as Tank Bunder. They would have to pass over high slopes with burdens on their shoulders. The meeting could well imagine the difficutties and troubles they had to undergo during the rainy season. It would take nearly three hours for a funeral party to return home from the Tank Bunder, and during the "fast days," in the month of Ramjan, the health of the party carrying the dead was sure to be affected. It was stated by medical authorities that bodies of persons dying from the bubonic fever should be disposed of as soon as possible, but this rapidity could not be effected if the graveyards were removed to a long distance from the city, and the carrying party was sure to get the contagion. The speaker concluded his remarks by telling his co-religionists that the step taken by the authorities to remove their graveyards was a humilation to the Mahomedans. Kazi Mahomed Ismail Mehere stated that on hearing that the graveyards were to be closed, the hearts of the everloyal Mahomedan subject, in Bombay were broken, and it was now the duty of the Government to see that their loyal subjects were protected. They never dreamt that the Government would take such a step. No proofs were shown as to why these graveyards should be closed. Some sort of epidemic always broke out when there was paucity of rain. It was stated by Aristotle, the great philosopher, that to remove plague was to take a leap in the dark. The soil was nature's disinfectant.

Several speakers having briefly addressed the meeting supporting these views, it was resolved that a petition be drawn up and forwarded to the Municipal Corporation to the effect that the burial grounds were in sanitary condition and should not be closed, and that the question at issue should be postponed until their petition was decided upon. A Committee consisting of twenty-five Mahomedans was then appointed to carry out the first resolution.

The meeting dispersed within a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE MARINE LINES.

The insanitary condition of the Marine Lines is causing great anxiety. Many cases of pestilence have taken place in the servants' quarters, which are mere plague-traps. Most of the residences in which officers, Military and Civil are quartered were described twenty years ago as mere wigwams, and they have not improved in the interval. The condition of the Marine Lines is a disgrace to the Government of India, the ground landlord which vetoes all plans of improvement.

PARSEE SHEDS FOR HEALTHY OCCUPANTS OF INFECTED HOUSES.

The sheds erected by the trustees of the Parsee Punchayet Charitable Funds at Dadur for the accommodation of the healthy occupants of infected houses have been declared to be ready for use from the 1st inst. Each of these sheds has cost Rs. 250, or nearly ten times as much as ordinary sheds. They are so constructed as to be fit for use even during the monsoon by the poor as well as persons of the middle and well-to-do classes. Accommodation has been provided for twenty-five families. There are sheds each containing accommodation for two families, and others containing accommodation for seven families, constructed in separate blocks. The ground on which they stand has been raised, and are erected on a high plinth. The front room is large enough to hold five or seven beds.

THE BOMBAY HIGH SCHOOLS.

We have already stated that the proprietors of the private High Schools intend to re-open them from the 8th inst. They will be kept open for a week, when the proprietors will further consider whether the attendance justifies them to continue keeping them open. Meanwhile they have given notice to leave to the teachers employed by them, as they have earned no fees from the pupils for the last two months. Many parents seem indisposed to send their children to school in the present state of the epidemic, because, during the short recess, the children eat "bhajia chutney, parched gram and rice, dirty sweetmeat, &c., sold by hawkers, which are most likely to do the children harm.

THE PLAGUE IN MADHORE VILLAGE.

A Correspondent, writing from Madhore, situated in Gujerat, states that the plague has taken deep root in the village. Two or three Koli ghorawallas brought the plague from Bombay, and after their deaths, the pestilence has been spreading to an alarming extent. A small number of Parsees reside in the village, and several Parsee runaways from Bombay had been sojourning with them; but owing to the existence of the plague in Madhore itself, they have been compelled to run away with their guests to Nowsaree and Billimora. The village is occupied by about 200 Koli ghorawallas, of whom about 20 have been carried off by the plague. All the residents of some of the huts have died, and their huts have been burnt down. The village has a salubrious climate, and is surrounded by the sea, but it has had the misfortune to import the plague.

Kika Bhana, a Bhundaree, died of the plague in the Surat civil hospital at the age of twenty years. Of twenty cases of the plague, fourteen persons died up to Sunday last. Dr. Jehangir Jamasji has been appointed special officer at the Surat railway to watch for any plague-stricken persons arriving there, while in the Parakh Hospital, Dr. Choonilal attends to the treatment of the unfortunate sufferers from the plague.

THE JAIN HOSPITAL.

The Jain Hospital, which was opened on the 20th December, 1896, had 16 admissions in December 1896, and 23 in January 1897, thus bringing up the total to 39. During the period there were 21 deaths, 7 have gone to their homes cured, and of the 11 under treatment one is in a critical and two in a precarious state. Thus the total mortality comes to nearly 54 per cent., including the moribund cases, and if these are excluded the percentage of mortality would be below 50 per cent. Comment is unnecessary; this speaks for itself about the management of the hospital. The following are the names of the seven discharged cured:—Gordhan Jumkha, Shewprasad, Kalidas Curson, Mohan Raghavji, Mahabaldev Moribai and Mavishankar.

FEVER RELIEF FUND.

IN addition to the subscriptions detailed yesterday, the following sums have been received:—

Mr R Knight	20
Major F L Jones	10
Mr Dinshaw Merwan	15
Messrs D Merwan and Co	15
Mr Byram D Merwan	15
Esplanade Liberal Cricket Club through Mr Pochaii	5
Per Bai Motiabai	100
Mr S W Edgerley	20
Mrs S D Sassoon	20
Mr Sassoon J David	20
Mr Silas E Sassoon	10
Mr S M Moses	10
Mr S E Shellim	10
Mr R H Isaacs	10
Mr S A Nathan	10
Mr W D Graham	10
Mr W M Macaulay	10
X Y Z	10
Mr N S Ezra	5
Mr E A Moses	5
Mr E Shellim	5
Mr A E J Abraham	5
Mr Ezekiel	5
Mr Haji Karrim Bux Abdul Rahim	5
Mr Joseph Meyer	3
Anonymous	5
H S	2
Mr J B Judah	2
Mr S H D	2
Mr Salem S David	2
Mr D Benjamin	2
I S O	2
Mr Abdul Kadir	2
Mr M J Menasseh	1
Mr C Bengalee	1

Bombay, Feb. 3.

THE DEATHS FROM FEAR NOT FEVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—I returned to Bombay from my Christmas holiday trip the middle of last week, and I have made it my duty to spend a large portion of each day since my return in visiting all the districts which have been affected by bubonic fever, so as to be in the position to judge for myself of the existing state of things, as compared with what they were five or six weeks before. The first thing that struck me was the absence of the usual street and gully smells. The air felt as pure and sweet as if I were still in the country, among the fields, far away from town life. When I told this to my native friends whom I met in the street, they agreed with my statement that the Health Department had succeeded in making Bombay cleaner than it had been for many years past, but qualified their acceptance by the remark that the unwonted cleanliness was partly due to the enormous exodus of the population that has taken place. On Thursday I visited a number of cotton mills, and satisfied myself that not more than one-fourth to one-fifth of the machinery was running in the respective mills, owing to the hands having gone away wholesale a few days after they had been paid their previous month's wages. The hands have been treated very badly by their Marwari and Bunniah grain shop-keepers, who collected the amounts due to them from the hands as soon as they were paid, and then closed their shops and went off to their country, without telling the men what they were going to do. The men were thus left penniless and, in many cases I fear, starving, not knowing which way to turn for their daily food, notwithstanding that, according to the usual system, nearly a month's wage, or even more, was still due to them by their respective mills. It is no wonder that under such depressing circumstances, fear has taken such a hold upon them, and as the mill-hands live largely in Kamatipura, Byculla, Parel, Dadar, and Mahim, we have the explanation of the sudden increased mortality in these five districts.

On Sunday I made a second long visit to Kamatipura. During this inspection I met Dr. Weir, our Health Officer, with whom I spent more than an hour, walking through the principal streets. I told him I had come to the conclusion that nine-tenths of the inhabitants had left Kamatipura. I pointed out to him that half the houses were locked up, and that of the other half, the entrance doors of which were open, hardly any tenants were visible. He said that my statement was an exaggeration, but as I had before seeing him gone into some of the open houses and found them practically empty, and in others had made inquiries of the tenants, through several Kamati friends who accompanied me, I cannot but think that one-tenth is nearer correct than one-fourth, as being the proportion of remaining inhabitants. In Kamatipura no doubt the exodus has been far greater than in any other district. On Saturday I visited Dongri, and Mandvi, in which the plague had first broken out. I was happy to find that here, as also in Mazagon, Chukla, Market, and Dhobi Talao, but few of the houses were closed, business had been resumed and was going on very much as before the exodus began, except that, in Mandvi, the crush of labour carts was less than usual, for one could get along Dongri and Samuel Streets fairly easily. In Bhuleshwar nearly all the shops in the main street leading past the temples and new market were still closed. In two Mombadavi streets however I was cheered by seeing fourteen Marwari shops open containing merchants, silversmiths, and sweetmeat sellers. This shows that this class has begun to come back.

I will now mention one item to exhibit how, in times like this, panic takes possession of people's minds, and forces them to make wild statements. You have published several letters "describing the filthy state of the Nawab's Tank in Mazagon, and urging the Municipality to clean it immediately, in order to prevent the decimation of the inhabitants of the locality." I therefore made a careful examination of it. It is a large built masonry tank, filled with rain water only, surrounded on all sides by the public street, with a masonry parapet wall all round, without a single drain or other hole to allow the entrance of dirty water. I found in it a quantity of small living green vegetable growths of the size of a pins head, called I think "*micrococcus*", the same as are found in profusion in the Vehar and Tulsi Lakes. I also saw many water beetles swimming close to and below the surface, just the same as you find in the still pools at Matheran and Khandala. If there were a break down of our water-supply, I should have no hesitation in drinking the water in the Nawab's Tank, as, next to pipe water; it is the safest drinking water in Bombay. My detailed inspections have convinced me that Bombay is now cleaner and healthier than it has been for many years past, so far as the hand of man can make it clean and healthy and that it is only panic, sheer downright fear and funk, which is causing the present heavy mortality. As soon as sound sense returns the death-rate will come down to its normal figure. In saying this I of course assume that those unfortunate words "*not previously built upon*" will at the earliest possible date be deleted from our Municipal Act, and that we have once and for ever done with pipe drains and gully traps in our house-connection system. They are death traps. Let us have open surface drains only in our gullies, which the sun and air can deodorize and purify.

But there are influences at work which have helped to bring the fever, and pneumonia and bubonic swellings among us, the same influences which made, it so terrible a scourge at Hongkong. Mrs. Besant is of opinion that the plague is due to the city being thronged with men who live a very immoral and vile life physically, and to the accumulated *Karma* of a large, sexually degraded, intemperate and voracious population. Mrs. Besant has no intimate personal knowledge of Bombay. She is only setting forth the view of those invisible higher intelligences who watch over and guard our city and its people. In stating this there is no necessity to suppose that Bombay is morally worse than Calcutta, Madras or any other great Indian city; but pestilence comes as a warning, to one city at a time. There is as we all know in Bombay sufficient intemperance in alcoholism narcotic drugs, gambling, sexuality and foul indecent language to form many texts for religious teachers and social reformers. It has been our *Karma* that the pestilence has come to us first amongst the cities, as Mr. McLauchlan Slater rightly tells us in a very very mild form," in a far less proportion than that of the great plague of London. Let us take warning in time. Let the motto of our Parsi friends, "Right thoughts, right words, right deeds," be in future the guiding principle of our lives.—Yours, &c.,

D. GOSTLING.

THE PARSEE FEVER HOSPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—Will you allow me as one who has more than once personally inspected the institution to add my testimony—whatever it may be worth—to that of Dr. Pollen and Mr. K. M. Shroff with regard to the Parsee Fever hospital? This useful institution was started by the enterprise of Dr. K. N. Bahadurji assisted by the lady who from its very inception has been giving her services as honorary physician with a whole heartedness and courage which ought to put to shame many a male member of her profession who joined the hospital only to find their courage ooze out at their heels in a very short time. At the commencement this institution met with an eager welcome from most Parsee patients who at once recognised the superior comfort and treatment of this hospital over that of its friendly rival at Arthur Road,—its popularity being attested to by the eager rush of patients who flocked thither for relief without let or hindrance. But latterly when, as it would seem, the plague had affected people's brains, something like a reaction set in, and there was no longer the same steady influx of patients as had welcomed the hospital in the first few weeks of its existence. To me who have more than once visited this hospital and seen the treatment given to the patients, this decrease in its popularity is unaccountable. I have spoken to several of the patients in the hospital and to their relations present there, not one of whom expressed aught but entire satisfaction with the treatment they received, one of them even telling me that "the treatment could not possibly be better." But there is, as it seems, a certain section of my community who having nothing else to do have been doing the charitable work of maligning the hospital and belittling its usefulness wherever their words had any chance of receiving belief from persons with plague on the brain. The hospital is located in a small but spacious building on Parel Road open on all sides and approached through a compound lined with pretty-looking garden trees. The authorities of the hospital have made arrangements for providing free of charge properly fitted conveyances for carrying patients from their homes to the hospital, and anyone wishing to obtain relief for his friends or relations has only to write to the resident physician, and he will find conveyances ready at his doors. As carrying the sick often involves great risk and requires special care, it is important that people should understand the necessity of not undertaking the work themselves. Arrived at the hospital you find it efficiently manned by a staff of trained nurses and Sisters of Mercy—in all nine I believe—tending the sick and giving relief in no small degree by their kind and genial treatment and tender looks of hope and encouragement, under the supervision of the resident physician and his wife, assisted by Miss Turkhud, who as the honorary physician of the hospital has been daily visiting, often till late at night, and last, but not least, Dr. Bahadhurji himself, who visits every morning and evening, often prolonging his evening visit till ten and eleven and even later in the night, giving even his hours of sleep to the beneficent work into which he has thrown himself with such unusual energy and self-devotion. The feeding of the patients is also specially attended to, some half-a-dozen buffaloes being kept on the premises and special care being taken to see that the milk and all other food given should be the purest available. In a word the treatment and care of the patients is all that could be desired. Anybody who doubts this may satisfy himself on the point by first-hand reports from the inmates of the hospital or by a personal visit. In either case he will see that the treatment obtained at the hospital is much better by a long way than most people could afford to have at their homes.—Yours, &c.,

OMEGA.

THE MILLS: A CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—In your valued paper of to-day you say "It was decided to close the Mazagon Mill entirely and to work the Framjee Petit full with the help of the men of the former." Your information is incorrect. Out of 1,400 work people in the Mazagon Mill there was an attendance of only 500 work people in the month of January, and on the 1st February there was an attendance of 389 work people, out of which there were 200 weavers and the remaining 189 men were of the mechanic, engine, blow-room and spinning room. There was not a single man of the card room (slubbing intermediate and the roving frames), and there were no signs of these men turning up to their work for an indefinite time owing to the plague mortality being the highest on the Mazagon side. Under the circumstnces it was impossible to work the mill, which was stopped at 1 p.m. Fifty hands requested me to get them employed at the Framjee Petit Mills, which request was granted. The Framjee Petit Mill, with the addition of the above 50 hands, has a total number of 476 hands instead of the full complement of 1,300 hands. You will see from the above figure that the Framjee Petit Mill cannot be worked full and at the sacrifice of the Mazagon Mill.—Yours, &c.,

P. B. JEEJEEBHOY,
Manager, Mazagon and the Framjee Petit Mills.

Feb. 2.

A CASE AT SURAT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—Will you, through your columns, kindly let me inform the Sanitary authorities at Surat about a recent case of bubonic plague which occurred in my village? I wonder it has not yet attracted their notice, and that precautions preventive or otherwise have not been adopted since the occurence. The whole village has been frightened out of its wits; and if the sanitation of the villages be neglected where plague-driven Bombayites like myself have taken refuge, they would be at a loss to find out more healthy places "where to lay their heads."—Yours, &c.,

Gam Khujot, via Surat, Feb. 1. J. P. PATEL.

"ANOINT THY BODY WITH OIL."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—In the Bible it is written "Anoint thy body with oil," and I think if the people in Bombay did this daily, they would escape the plague. If I remember rightly, in the great plague of London it was noticed that no one who had anything to do with oil and tallow were attacked, and it is customary in Smyrna when the plague breaks out there for all the people to rub their bodies over with olive oil. The remedy is simple, and might be tried.—Yours, &c.,

Bhahur, Jan. 27. AN OLD INDIAN.

POONA HOSPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—The remarks from your correspondent, "Joseph," relating to the situation of the above hospital are most sensible. I have seen the temporary cottages myself, and feel bound to say that the authorities that be must remove them from that spot with the least possible delay.—Yours, &c.,

Feb. 2. WILMOT.

POONA.

The Municipal office returns for the 24 hours ending at 8 a.m., Tuesday, give the following results:—

Imported 4
Local 8

Peths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Ganesh	1	1
Nana's	1	1
Sudasev	2	2
Kasba	1	1
Rawiwar	1	1
Sassoon Hospital	6	5
Total	12	11

PERCAUTIONS IN CALCUTTA.

DR. SIMPSON, the Health Officer of Calcutta, has written as follows to the chairman of the Corporation:—

It will be seen from the following precautions recommended and taken by me that every endeavour has been made to guard the city against invasion as a preliminary measure, and that attention has been directed to the weak points by which plague is likely to effect an entrance and lodgement in Calcutta. The recommendations made by me since September last are as follows:—

Medical examination of passengers from Bombay to Calutta and precautions to be taken by Railway authorities against the spread of disease by work people and goods.

Quarantine in the port.

Increasing the number of medical inspectors and the formation of sanitary circles which have been carried out.

The erection of a plague hospital and the selection and securing of another site for a second plague hospital.

Provision for ambulances. Two have been provided.

That the provisions of sections 321 and 334 of the Municipal Act should be enforced as follows:—

(a) The application of power conferred for the isolation of the sick.

(b) The application of power for cleansing and disinfecting houses.

(c) For preventing rag-picking in the streets and power to destroy rags in rag-pickers' houses or rag-stores.

(d) The power to prohibit and destroy infected articles coming from Bombay.

(e) Power to enter and carry out sanitary measures during the day or night.

The selection of sites for special burning and burial gounds.

Advertisements inrerted in the daily papers as follows:—

(a) To advise householders what to do to exclude plague, 1,00,000 copies of those instructions were issued to householders in Urdu Bengali, Hindi and English, and another 50,000 are being printed for the same purpose.

(b) Advertisements giving the chief symptome of plague were published and addressed to all medical practitioners, and similar papers were sent to the East Indian Railway medical men.

Suggestions have been made to the Postal and Telegraph Departments to prevent the conveyance of infection by disinfecting at the places of despatch, letters, parcels and telegraphic copies which may be sent to Calcutta from infected districts.

A communication was sent to the Local Government advising the control of the traffic of pilgrims to Mecca and to prevent them from lodging or stain even for a few hours in Calcutta or Howrah but to arrange to conduct them direct from the station to the steamers. The sites for the temporary erection of encampments for healthy people from infected houses are being considered.

The recommendation for the appointment of a special Health Officer for Howrah and the adoption there of the same precautionary measures as in Calcutta.

It has been recently suggested that the medical inspectors should be doubled in number. Their duties consist in visiting crowded lodging-houses, taking notes of recent arrivals, and reporting any suspicious case of sickness in town.

Several cases of illness which in my opinion and in that of other medical men were cases of plague, were immediately isolated and the infected houses and articles thoroughly disinfected.

Two grain-depots in which rats were sick with bubonic swellings and dying in large numbers were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and the rats were destroyed. One of these depots has been closed and the inhabitants removed and the other was disinfected, and an application has been mad to the Magistrate to close it.

I have gone rather fully into what has been done because, while great prominence is given to miasures for cleansing the town, it does not seem to have been realised that a careful watch has been kept over the city, and that a great deal has been done to prevent the entrance and lodgment of the plague, I believe these measures have up to now proved effectual in keeping this city free from plague.

KARACHI EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

EXPORTS.

Gisela s, Aden—257 cwt rice, and 500 lbs tea.
Gisela s, Trieste—1,055 bales cotton, 5,000 cwt gingellyseed, 65 corges skins, and 50 corges hide.
Gisela s, Venice—1,778 bales cotton, 48 corges hide, and 49,116 lbs tea for transhipment to Batoum.
Satrunjee s, Bombay—183 bales cotton.
Dwarka s, Bombay—155 bales cotton, and 106 cwt jowaree.
Bahaduri s, Bombay—60 bales cotton, and 3 cwt cotton unpressed.
Branksome Hall s, Marseilles—330 bales cotton, 38,001 cwt gingellyseed, 60 corges skins, and 1,096 corges hide.
Branksome Hall s, Liverpool—1,69t bales cotton, 5,242 bales wool, 157 corges hide, 24,000 cwt bone, and 730 lbs tea.

IMPORTS.

Dumra s, Bombay—1,200 lbs T red and dyed yarns foreign.
Rufford Hall s, Liverpool—50 pieces prints foreign.
Stolzenfels s, Hamburg and Antwerp—118 cwt steel.
City of Edinburgh s. Liverpool via Bombay—398 pieces white goods foreign.
Kola s, Bombay—2,370 lbs T red and dyed yarns foreign.
Drachenfels s, Hamburg and Antwerp via Bombay—60 cwt steel.
Oumra s, Bombay—158 pieces prints foreign.
Kola s, 2,400 lbs grey yarns foreign, 23,600 lbs T red and dyed yarns foreign.
Maria Valerie s, Trieste—13,200 lbs T red and yarns foreign.
City of London s, Liverpool via Bombay—27,237 pieces grey goods foreign, 37,590 pieces grey goods Indian, 16,261 pieces prints foreign, 79,500 lbs grey yarns foreign, 64,321 lbs T red and dyed yarns foreign.
Khandalla s, Bombay—726 pieces prints foreign.
Dwarka s, Bombay—1,858 pieces grey goods Indian.
Bahaduri s, Bombay—920 pieces grey goods foreign, 1,795 white goods foreign, 140 pieces prints foreign, 120 cwt yellow metals.
Kola s, Bombay—2,960 pieces grey goods foreign, 3,295 pieces grey goods Indian, 750 pieces white goods foreign, 1,350 pieces prints foreign, 590 pieces prints Indian, 8,000 lbs grey yarns Indian.
Latona s, London via Bombay—1,480 pieces white goods foreign.
Ehrenfels s, Hamburg via Bombay—222 cwt iron bar, &c., and 7,119 cwt steel.
Dwarka s, Bombay—240 pieces grey goods foreign. 5,000 pieces grey goods Indian, 60 pieces prints foreign.
Satrunjee s, Bombay—1,510 pieces grey goods Indian, 270 pieces grey goods foreign, 1,200 pieces white goods foreign.
Country Crafts, Bombay—15,200 gallons kerosine oil.

ROWLANDS KALYDOR is a most delightfully cooling, soothing, healing, refreshing, and emollient milk for the skin. It prevents and removes freckles and sunburn, soothes, and heals stings of insects cures prickly heat, &c. renders the skin soft and delicate, and produces a clear and healthy complexion It is warranted free from any poisonous ingredients. Ask any dealer in perfumery, for Rowlands' Kalydor, and avoid poisonous and worthless imitations.

SPECIAL SHORT ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Scale for these Advertisements is as follows:—Not exceeding 3 lines, Re. 1; each succeeding line As. 8. No Trade Advertisements are admitted under this Scale.

OPERA and FIELD GLASSES.—Possessing the Maximum of Power and Penetration. Acute definition, clear vision. The distances of objects viewed through our glasses are produced 80 per cent., and consequently magnify in proportion. Price from Rs. 16—MARCKS and Co., Ld., Opticians, Bombay and Poona.

ON VIEW—Hon. Mr. Birdwood's valuable furniture by Wimbridge and Roberts, piano, billiard-table, horses and carriages, garden, &c., at Pawai Road, Malabar Hill.

CHOLERA TINCTURE.—Specially adapted for Travellers and those living in Up-country Stations where medical aid is not readily procurable. Per Bottle Re. 1. Prepared by THOMSON & TAYLOR, 35, Esplanade Road, Bombay.

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 3.

THE Indian Council made further allotments of extra Bills in London yesterday say of 4 lakhs on Calcutta, at 1s. 3 13-32 to 7-16d., and 1¼ lakh on Madras at 1s. 3 13-32d.—the higher rate showing an advance of 5-32d. on that obtained for the last previous extra sales of Bills, and 9-32d. on last Wednesday's regular allotment price. The Exchange Banks' buying rate in London on India at 30 days' sight remained at 1s. 2 15-16d. per rupee.

Consols in London further advanced 1-16 per cent. to 112 15-16; the price of Indian Sterling Loan remaining at 118. About £50,000 in Gold was paid into the Bank of England yesterday. The increasing ease of the London Money market is again emphasized by a reduction in the market rates of discount of 1-8th per cent., making the quotation 2 per cent. both for short Bills and six months' sight Indian Bank Paper, and a reduction of the Bank of England rate to 3 per cent. is looked for. 3½ per cent. Rupee Securities advanced 3-16ths per cent. in London yesterday, to £62 7-8. The price of Bar Silver was unchanged in London, at 29 11-16d. per oz., as it was also in New York at 64¼ cents per ounce but with Exchange on London ¼ cent higher, at 4·86½ dollars. French Renters in Paris were ¼ per cent. higher, at 103¼; but Paris Exchange on London was unaltered at fcs. 25·20.

The total quantity of Wheat afloat for the United Kingdom on Friday evening was 2 1-2 million quarters; or 20,000 quarters less than the estimate at the end of the previous week.

Yellow Cawnpore Rapeseed was quoted in London yesterday, at 43s. per 416 lbs., sellers via the Canal, November-December shipment, to Havre, Antwerp, and Dunkirk; and Brown Rapeseed at 38¼s. per 416 lbs., sellers via Canal, February-March shipment, to the same ports, market easier.

The Liverpool Cotton market closed quiet last evening; Surats dull; and Arrivals steady; the days' Sales having been 8,000 bales, East Indians *nil*. Prices of spot Cotton were all unchanged; but American Arrivals were 1-32d. lower in the nearer positions, and 3-64d. in the most distant, the extreme quotations being 3 7-8d. for February deliveries, and 3 57-64d. for June-July. The day's Imports were 39,009 bales. The Manchester market was quiet.

In New York yesterday the price of ready Middling Uplands Cotton declined 1-16 cent., to 7¼ cents per lb.; May Futures being 3 points lower, at 7-15 cents per lb. The Receipts at the U.-S. Ports were 23,000 bales, and the following comparison is now shown between the arrivals at the Ports this season, and those in the two previous years during the same period:—

	1897.	1896.	1895.
Tuesday's Receipts	2,3000	24,000	29,000
Three days' do.	59,000	61,000	83,000
Since 1st Sept. 1896	55,86,000	4,059,000	6,235,000

Cotton here has been very quiet in tone to-day, and few transactions have been reported. Prices are unchanged for ready stuff; and Bengals are difficult to procure with contract. There have been buyers of Good Broach to-day for 15-20 March delivery, at Rs. 190-1 per candy; but no sellers. The purchases reported to-day sum up 1,170 bales, of which 200 Bengal, at Rs. 139; 170 Kurrachee, at Rs. 149; and 100 Pachora, at Rs. 158 have been taken by European shippers; 400 Karanja, at Rs. 160; and 100 Akola at Rs. 157, for shipment to Japan, and 200 Barsee, at Rs. 180 for Mill account.

WHEAT and SEEDS are unchanged in position, both markets being partially closed on the absence of dealers and brokers, and prices are nominally unchanged.

The Receipts of Produce into Bombay yesterday were as follows:—

Cotton	16,680	bales.
Wheat	4,642	cwts.
Linseed	1,381	,,
Rapeseed	720	,,
Gingellyseed	5,929	,,
Groundnuts	2,358	,,
Rice	31,422	,,

FREIGHTS are very quiet, and no fresh business of importance has transpired to-day. We quote February shipment at 12s. 6d. per ton. to Havre and Genoa; and 118 to Antwerp and Dunkirk.

EXCHANGE opened at 1s. 3 3-8d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and at 1s. 3½d. for three months' sight Credits, and a fair amount of Wire Transfer was reported sold at the above quotation; but Mercantile Bills have again been scarce, and the market closed quieter as follows:—

Bank Bills on	Demand	1s. 3 3-8d.	per rupee.
Do.	Telegraphic	1s. 3 11-32d.	,,
Do.	3 months' sight	1s. 3 7-16d.	,,
Credits	do.	1s. 3 ½d.	,,
Francs	do.	1·63	,,

GOVERNMENT PAPER.—For 3½ per Cents, 99 3-8 has been quoted for cash, 99¾ for the March Account and 97 for Threes, but hardly any business on any line has transpired and the above rates are almost nominal

SHARES.—The prices in our usual list are unaltered and nominal, this market remaining practically closed for business.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE s s Clam, 2,310 tons, Captain T Black, will sail to-day for Portsaid in ballast.

THE s s Matin, 2,433 tons, Captain James Archer, arrived in harbour yesterday from Calcutta (21st January) with a cargo of Coal. The vessel is consigned to Messrs Turner Morrison and Co.

THE s s Mascotte, 2,018 tons, Captain James Ross, arrived in harbour yesterday from Moulmine (23rd January) with a cargo of timber. The Vessel is consigned to Messrs Turner, Morison and Co.

THE City Line s s City of Perth, 2,578 tons, Captain John Wilson, arrived in harbour yesterday from Glasgow (1st January) via Liverpool with a general cargo. The vessel is consigned to Messrs Forbes, Forbes and Co.

THE B I S N Co's s s Kilwa, 993 tons, Captain R. J. Rickford, will sail to-day for the Persian Gulf via Karachee, with a general cargo, and the following passengers:—Mr Abdool Curriem, Mr Syed Rashid, Mr Jassa Min Aman, Mr Rahim, Mr Jassim bin Mahomed, Mr Hajee Mahomed, and 84 deck.

THE following is the list of passengers per Italian steamer Singapore, Captain E. Pizzarello sailing to-day, for Genoa:—Mr and Mrs Knighton, Miss Fitness, Captain F Crocco, Revd Fr Carlino, Revd Fr Borghi, Sister Dionisia, Mr and Mrs U De Paoli, Mr and Mrs N Ziegar, Mr and Mrs E Grindstein, Mr and Mrs Jacobson and 2 children, Mr A J Calmano, Mrs B Rothemberg and 2 children, Mr B Rasmeri, Mr C Colonello and daughter, and Mr W Cluby.

DEPARTURE OF THE CHINA AND AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

THE P and O Co's s s Kaiser-i-Hind, 2,385 tons, Captain C L Daniel, will sail to-day for China via Colombo, with Her Majesty's China and Australian Mails, a general cargo and the following passengers:—For Yokohama—Mr R W Playfair. For Shanghai—Mr and Mrs Hauky, Mr A Ganahaigh and Mr Edi.

ARRIVALS.

Feb.	Vessel.	Commander.	From.
3	City of Perth s	Wilson	Glasgow, Jan 1.
	Mascotte s	Ross	Moulmein, Jan 23.
	Matin s	Archer	Calcutta, Jan 21.
	Chyebassa s	Parkman	Zanzibar, &c.

The following vessels obtained their port-clearances yesterday:—
Steamer Kaiser-i-Hind, Daniel, for China.
,, Kilwa, Rickford, for Persian Gulf.
,, Clam, Black, for Port Said.
,, Singapore, Pezzarello, for Genoa.

The following vessels entered for loading yesterday:—
Steamer Candia, for China and Japan.
,, Sirdhana, for Zanzibar, &c.
,, Okhla, for Calcutta, &c.

KARACHI.

ARRIVALS.

Jan.			
19	Satrunji s	F. Ahmed	Bombay.
	Goredd s	Hughes	Calcutta.
20	Steinberger s	Allerholt	Hamburg.
22	Bahaduri s	D. Adam	Bombay.
	Dumra s	Russell	Do.
	Fernfield s	McTie	Middlesbro.
25	Kilwa s	Rickford	Persian Gulf.
	Okhla s	Wood	Calcutta.
	Pemba s	Rothwell	Bombay.

DEPARTURES.

Jan.			
21	Ehrenfels s	Ziegenmeyer	Hamburg & Bremen.
	Dwarka s	Tice	Bombay.
22	Bahaduri s	D. Adam	Do.
23	Dumra s	Russell	Do.
26	Kilwa s	Rickford	Do.
	Pemba s	Rothwell	Persian Gulf.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.
S. S. Latona, Gardner, Volkart Brothers, for Antwerp.
,, Goredd, Hughes, (not known.)
,, Steinberger, Allerholt, D. Graham & Co., for Bombay.
,, Fernfield, McTie, for Bombay.
,, Okhla, Wood, for Bombay.

HIGH COURT.—FEBRUARY 4.

(Before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice STRACHEY.)
Testamentary Suit for Hearing and Final Disposal.
3-66—Nanu and H—Dossabhoy Dadabhoy Allbless and others vs Perozbai widow—B M Motilal.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

MATHERAN.

DEATH.

GUZDER—February 3, at Matheran, Awabai, beloved daughter of Nowrojee Jeevanjee Guzder, Proprietor, Great Western Hotel. Funeral this (Thursday) morning, at 8 o'clock, at Hornby Road, Old Police Court Building, Bombay.

BOMBAY.

BIRTH.

PEREIRA—February 2, at Bombay, the wife of Dr. N. F. Pereira, of a son.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

PORTEOUS—January 25, at Lansdowne, the wife of C. Mc L. Porteous, Esq., 9th Gurkha Rifles, of a son.
VINCENT—January 28, at Rampore, Chupra, the wife of Arthur Vincent, of a son.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*_** ALL communications intended for publication in our columns, should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any individual member of the staff.

The Bombay Gazette

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1897.

NATURALLY enough the speeches delivered at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, yesterday, were marked by a spirit of depression in keeping with the darkness of the immediate outlook for the interests that are specially looked after by the institution. The report of the Committee for the year 1896 was a record of work well up to the average both in variety and interest. But while there was cause for congratulation on this account, the thought uppermost in the minds of all the members who attended was of the present and the immediate future rather than of the past. But the members of a body like the Chamber of Commerce are not the men to lose their heads in a time of crisis. There was an entire absence of wild and exaggerated talk, after the fashion of the anonymous and ill-informed critics of the officers who, as pointed out by Mr. Cotton and Mr. Seville, are straining every nerve to rid the city of the calamity that has overtaken it. During the crisis the Committee of the Chamber have refused to listen to the clamour of advocates of a policy calculated to hamper responsible officers. They have declined to support in their associated capacity the adoption of any and every panacea that busy bodies have suggested. "Our files," remarked Mr. Beaufort, the retiring Chairman, with mingled wisdom and irony, "contain no letters either to, or from, the Municipal Executive, or the Government of Bombay, on the subject, because we have endeavoured to maintain the reputation of the Chamber by avoiding correspondence which it was patent to us, on ascertaining the facts from personal enquiry and discussion, was unnecessary. We would not take up the time of officers, overworked as they have been, and are, by asking them to place on paper their reasons for not doing what we—eminent scientific, and medical authorities as we no doubt consider ourselves—deemed to be the proper course to pursue. We preferred to leave this to the intelligent writers, who invariably rush to the front on occasions such as the present." This attitude is a reasonable and proper one to take. The position and influence of the Chamber are such that had it assumed the role of destructive and discontented criticism the good work of the Executive would have been far more hampered than it can possibly be by the lucubrations of irresponsible writers, sending anonymous letters to a morning paper from the safe retreat of the hills. Had the Executive of the Municipality shown signs of faltering, and had there been evidences of failure to make the best use of the staff of labourers it is possible for them to obtain under existing circumstances, the intervention of the Chamber might have been justified.

But nothing of the kind has occurred. As was mentioned in Mr. Cotton's vigorous speech, every medical or sanitary authority of repute who has visited the city has expressed hearty approval of the measures adopted. Short of a wholesale system of compulsory segregation, which for many reasons would be a dangerous experiment, these experts have had scarcely a single suggestion of importance to offer. This in itself is a strong argument in favour of the policy adopted by the Chamber, which is composed not of medical or sanitary experts, but of men of business, many of whom have never found time to study the Municipal law and its practical working. Mr. Beaufort admitted that there is and has been for a long time past a lack of readiness on the part of members of the Chamber to accept nomination to the Municipality. The retiring Chairman is of opinion that this reluctance (of which he himself is a conspicuous example) is justified under existing conditions. He holds that with a Corporation of 72 members, and with no time limit for speeches, the conduct of business on business principles is an impossibility. But it is not enough that a reduction in numbers should be made; there should be such a remodelling of the Municipal scheme as to ensure the services of citizens of special aptitude. It is notorious that such men have been a diminishing quantity of late, while men of special unfitness have been proportionately increasing. There can be no doubt that Bombay owes a great deal of her present ill-fortune to the delays of the Municipality in sanctioning the carrying out of urgently needed schemes of sanitary reform—delays due to the obstructive tactics of some of the very men who are now loudest and most violent in their denunciations of the Executive. Such obstruction would be impossible in England. If any Municipal authority in that country refused to carry out needed schemes of sanitation, it would soon be called to account and compelled to do its duty by the Local Government Board, as by an unfailing automatic process. The method laid down in the Act for bringing our Municipality to a sense of its obligations is far more slow, cumbrous, and uncertain, and its simplification is desirable.

But the reform of the constitution of the Municipality is not the immediate question of the hour. The subjugation of the pestilence is the first thing to be done, and whatever may have been the shortcomings of the Municipality in the past in regard to sanitary reform, unprejudiced observers must admit that in the present crisis it has acted so far wisely and well. It is true that very few members have felt it their duty to study existing conditions on the spot by visiting the affected districts. As pointed out yesterday by Mr. Cotton, so far as the action taken in the Council Chamber is concerned, there has been little cause for complaint. No wild and impracticable resolutions have been carried, suggestions have been freely offered, but the confidence of the members in the Executive officers has been shown by voting without demur the supplies for which they have asked. The Corporation has refused to assent to a proposal which, while bringing a fifth wheel of the coach into play, would have had the effect of increasing greatly the clerical labours of officers without helping one jot or tittle in the work of restoring the normal health conditions. As a representative of the Chamber on the Corporation, Mr. Cotton, who has worked for the town as perhaps no other non-official has in the present crisis, was quite justified in emphasising these facts at yesterday's meeting. If those who complain that "nothing is being done" would follow the example of Mr. Cotton, and of Mr. Saville, his colleague in the representation of the Chamber, and would pay repeated visits to the affected quarters to see for themselves what is going on, they would no longer endeavour by anonymous inuendoes to discourage and dishearten the responsible administrators in the arduous battle they are fighting to deliver the city from its present plight.

WE announced yesterday the appointment of Sir Charles Ollivant to fill the seat in Council which will be rendered vacant by the retirement of the Hon. Mr. Birdwood in April. Our London correspondent intimates that one of the reasons for a selection by which many who are his seniors in the service have been passed over, is his exceptional familiarity with the sanitary and structural needs of Bombay. It is eminently desirable that his experience should be turned to account when measures to secure the capital of the Presidency and the chief port of India from a recurrence of pestilence occupy the attention of Government. When Municipal Commissioner of Bombay Mr. Ollivant showed that he possessed no ordinary grasp of the requirements of the city. During his eight years of office he succeeded in more than doubling the water-supply of the city; and what was perhaps a greater feat, he provided the means of creating the Tansa Lake and bringing the water thence at a cost of over a crore of rupees, without burdening the rate-payers with any new impost. He laboured not altogether fruitlessly to widen the streets and to open up waste places in the Island that have since become prosperous and populous quarters of an ever-growing city. He did more for the expansion of Bombay than all the labours of the much-talked-of Extension Committee whose plans to this hour exist only on paper. If he had had his way he would have made a clean sweep of the slums and rookeries which have become the haunt of disease and plague. It was not his fault that the new Municipal Act on which he bestowed thought and labour was marred by the excision of provisions that would have prevented the erection of buildings which it is now proposed to destroy by fire as the quickest, if not the best, or the only cure. Sir Charles Ollivant had ever present to his mind the grave danger to the health and prosperity of the city lurking in the continuance of insanitary conditions, which those who are clamouring for "rescuers" and "saviours" did their best to perpetuate, by blindly opposing every measure of necessary precaution. In matters appertaining to the development of Bombay on safe lines so as to obviate the incalculable evil of overcrowding in pestilential chawls and narrow lanes and blind alleys, Sir Charles Ollivant can speak and act as an expert. The newly designated member of Council had a wide experience of administrative work in the mofussil, quite outside his eight years' connection with Bombay. He was first appointed to Surat, and served there for twelve years with intervals of special duty in Baroda and Sind and in the State of Sachin, before coming to Bombay in May 1881. His Commissionership in Bombay ceasing in April 1889, he became Political Agent in Kathiawar, and at once proceeded to plan the completion of the railway system of that Province and the linking up of the different lines so as to facilitate the direct trade of all parts of Kathiawar with Gujerat and the rest of India. Last year he was appointed Chief Commissioner of Sind and subsequently Chief Secretary. His experience has therefore been sufficiently varied. Wherever he served he has left the impress of an organising mind. His appointment by the Secretary of State to the seat shortly to be vacated by the Judicial member of the Governor's Council is open to the criticism that it involves a departure from the rule observed for many years that one of the seats in the Council shall be filled by a representative of the Judicial branch of the service. The Hon. Mr. Nugent is Revenue Member of the Council; and the Hon. Mr. Birdwood is the Judicial Member. When Sir Charles Ollivant takes his seat on the retirement of the latter, there will be two Revenue Members, and the Judicial branch will not be represented at all. The question is already being canvassed: How will the judicial appeals from Native States in Kathiawar and elsewhere be heard and decided by his Excellency the Governor-in-Council? Such cases are always remitted to the attention of the Member of Council who has had experience in the District Courts and has spent some years on the High Court Bench. The cases from Native States that come up for disposal by the Government are numerous and important, and often of great complexity. They can only be satisfactorily dealt with by an officer of judicial experience. The Government, however, will not be without resource in the matter. They have the Legal Remembrancer, and a Judge of the High Court can be consulted when necessary. After all, when famine is in the mofussil, and pestilence in Bombay, the Government has more need of executive energy rather than judicial qualities, on the principle, *inter armis silunt leges.*

BRIGADIER-GENERAL GATACRE'S action in appropriating some weeks back the piece of vacant grass land near the Oval for a camping ground for Native troops was adversely criticised by people whose aesthetic tastes were offended by the sight of an array of military tents when they drove past to the Bandstand. The Brigadier-General did this in anticipation of the permission subsequently obtained from Government, and his promptitude in the matter has been fully justified by the total immunity from plague enjoyed by the Native troops. As previously stated, the British soldiers have also entirely escaped, and the sickness amongst them from ordinary causes is exceptionally small. The maintenance of the health of the troops is a matter of such great importance that General Gatacre can be forgiven by the most sentimental folks for placing an encampment between them and a picturesque view of Back Bay. The necessity for the step is the greater, seeing that the trooping season is not yet at an end. If plague broke out among the soldiers of the Bombay garrison, the departure of drafts for Home would probably have to be delayed, and this would entail no little disappointment to the men whose period of service in India has expired. The military authorities never do these things by halves, as is shown by the severity of the quarantine regulations imposed at Malta and Gibraltar. The officers in charge of one of the trooping vessels which left the port recently found on arrival at Malta that the military authorities absolutely refused to have the drafts for that station landed. They were therefore taken to England, from whence they will be sent back to Malta. Four more trooping vessels are to leave Bombay during the present season, and the authorities here are hoping that the immunity of the troops in Bombay from the plague will be continued, so as to place no hindrance in the way of carrying out fully and promptly the relief programme. There are several obvious objections to the transfer of the garrison troops to places of safety across the harbour, and it is gratifying to know that this step is not now contemplated by the authorities, in view of the satisfactory health of the soldiery.

MR. MONEY-WIGRAM'S resignation caused the vacancy for the Romford Division of Essex to which Mr. Sinclair was elected on Tuesday. It was only at the beginning of the year that Mr. Wigram's medical advisers warned him that his state of health was such that he must not continue the arduous work of a Member of Parliament, and he is now in Ceylon for the rest of the winter, having left England almost immediately after his doctors' pronouncement. Mr. Sinclair, the successful Unionist, is presumably a new aspirant for Parliamentary honours. Mr. Raphael has contested Romford before, but unsuccessfully. At the last election Mr. Money-Wigram won the seat by 1,828 votes out of a total poll of 14,686. Mr. Sinlair scores only a victory of 185 on a poll of 16,187, a remarkably heavy figure for Romford, which only claims 21,000 electors all told. Mr. Raphael may be congratulated on the stand he made, seeing that in 1892 he was rejected by 1,182.

AT the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commence yesterday, the Hon. Mr. A. F. Beaufort made a long and able speech reviewing the more important aspects of the work of the year. The importance of further railway extension, and of an adjustment of railway rates so as to take from Calcutta the unfair advantage it prossesses in regard to business from the North Wese Province were first touched upon. The correspondence of the Chamber respecting the renewal of the mail contract to Europe, and also as to the need for better arrangements for landing passengers from the mail steamers were amongst the many other subjects dealt with. Mr. Beaufort expressed an opinion that if the entire arrangements for landing and collecting the Customs duties were left in the hands of of the P. and O. and Port Trust officials and the Trust remunerated, as it is by the Municipality for collecting the Octroi, the existing difficulties would be surmounted and the proceedings conducted in a reasonable and expeditious manner. The great improvements in the crop reports, introduced by Mr. J. E. O'Conor, the Director-General of Statistics, were referred to with satisfaction. With reference to the present crisis in Bombay Mr. Beaufort naturally had much to say. He intimated that he had been urged from time to time to set the machinery of the Chamber in motion to express disapproval of the action, or inaction, of the Municipal Executive. But the Committee agreed that it would be wiser not to interfere. They considered that with a specially appointed Committee of medical experts to advise Government, and indirectly the Municipality, it was not only unnecessary, but uncalled for, to place their amateur views before the local authorities. While giving credit to the Executive for the work they were doing, Mr. Beaufort complained of the delays which take place in the conduct of business in the Council Hall, and urged that the number of members of the Corporation should be reduced. Other speakers included Mr. Abercrombie, the new Chairman; Mr. Saville, who described the excellent work performed by the Municipal Executive, in the affected districts which he had virited, Mr. S. M. Moses, who complained of the action of many mill managers in absenting themselves from Bombay at this time, and Mr. G. Cotton who defended the Corporation from the criticisms of irresponsible letter-writers.

AT the Bombay Criminal Sessions, yesterday, Visram Gopal, a Hindu goldsmith, was charged with having, on the 5th November last, caused hurt to Sumbhoolal Sewlal and three other persons by throwing sulphuric acid on them. He was convicted by the jury and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for two years. Vithu Dewjee, a barber, was convicted of having, on the 19th November last, cut off the nose of his wife Rukhmee, by means of a razor, in the room of a chawl at DeLisle Road, in which they lived, and was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for three years.

RAJAH INDER KARAN BAHADUR, a young noble man of Hyderabad, passed the First Arts Examination of the Madras University, held in December last. He is the first noble many and jagirdhar of Hyderabad who has passed this examination in Madras. His Highness the Nizam congratulated Rajah Inder Karan and wished him prosperity and long life.

THE Goods Traffic on the B. B. & C. I. Railway for the week ending 9th January 1897 shows a decrease on the corresponding week of 1896 of 214,857 maunds and Rs. 61,110 in the earnings.

Two Danish officers, M.M. Oloufsen and Philipsen, have just arrived at St. Petersburg on their return from a journey of exploration to the Pamir country, where they reached places hitherto untrodden by Europeans. They have brought back with them over 300 photographs of places they have visited and types they have met. During their travels they met among others, tribes who are still fire-worshippers and totally uncivilised in their mode of life. The men of these tribes, and even their animals, are of very small proportions, the bulls and cows being no larger than a European foal, the donkeys about the size of a large dog, and the sheep about as large as a small poodle. The use of money is unknown to them, and their only trade consists in the bartering of furs. Women are bought at the rate of five or six cows or fifteen sheep apiece. These natives are very timid, and on the approach of strangers take to flight. MM. Philipsen and Oloufsen (add Reuter's St. Petersburg correspondent) have secured numerous scientific collections, which they intend presenting to the Natural History Museum at Copenhagen, and have also made interesting meteorological observations. In the course of their voyage they occasionally reached a height of 14,000 ft. above the level of the sea.

CAPTAIN RALEIGH GREY, who was retired from the Innishkilling Dragoons for his participation in the Jameson raid, has been further punished (says the *World*) by being deprived of the Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, which was conferred upon him last January. Captain Raleigh Grey's name appeared in the official list of new creations, but orders were privately given afterwards not to gazette the appointment, and it has recently been cancelled by the Queen.

CERTAIN shrewd Dutch correspondents are damping the ardour of Mr. Rhodes's friends here by pointing out that last week's triumphal progress is not altogether without suspicion. They point out that the company at the banquet included no single Cape Cabinet Minister, only one past Minister and not a single Dutch member of Parliament. Further that the gathering received in silence the toast of the Queen's representative. One writer goes so far as to attribute to Lord Rosmead, then Sir Hercules Robinson, the chief credit for averting an international disaster as the result of Dr. Jameson's raid, and concludes by saying that the Queen has no more loyal subjects than the Dutch people of Cape Colony, who believe in the justice of the British people, and cannot conceive a policy being approved which will make it difficult for the European races in South Africa to live side by side.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

DR. NANSEN THE EXPLORER.

LONDON, FEB. 3.

Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, has arrived in London.

EARL SELBORNE ON TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

The Earl of Selborne, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, speaking at Manchester, said that a permanent system depriving the majority of whites in the Transvaal of a share in the government of the country was impossible, and that no infringement of the London Convention would be permitted.

CONVENTION BETWEEN FRANCE AND ETHIOPIA.

The Commercial Convention between France and Ethiopia has been ratified. It recognises the independence of King Menelik.

VENEZUELA AND ARBITRATION.

LONDON, FEB. 3.

Venezuela has signed the Arbitration Treaty with Great Britain.

Lord Herschell and Mr. Justice Collins have been appointed Arbitrators.

FRANCE AND THE NILE EXPEDITION.

France has protested to the Khedive against the British advancing the cost of the Soudan expedition, the previous assent of the Caisse Debt being requisite.

THE ROMFORD ELECTION.

Mr. Sinclair, the Unionist candidate, has been elected member for Romford in the place of Mr. Wigram, who resigned his seat. Mr. Sinclair polled 8,156, whilst Mr. Raphael, the Radical candidate, polled 8,031 votes.

THE MURDER OF A EUROPEAN WOMAN.

THE GHAZI MURDERER'S STATEMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LAHORE, FEB. 3.

The Ghazi murderer made a statement before the Magistrate yesterday evening.

Asked whether he struck the European man and woman, he replied: "Yes, I did. I am a Ghazi, and by doing this I hope to go to Heaven (Jannat). I struck both as I intended to kill all the Feringhis. This knife is mine, and with this knife I have struck the mem sahib and sahib. I came here a long time ago to murder the Feringhis."

The husband of the murdered woman, in his evidence, said they were looking in the China shops, with their backs towards the road, when suddenly his wife fell forward. Turning round he saw the Ghazi with a drawn dagger covered with blood. He attempted to seize the dagger, whereupon the Ghazi aimed a blow at his chest, which he warded off with his forearm, but not without getting it severely wounded. He then turned and carried his wife, who said she was dying, into the shop. The Ghazi was standing outside. The wife died on the way to the hospital.

An ex-Lance Duffadar, belonging to the 2nd Bengal Cavalry, pluckily collared the Ghazi near the Lohori Gate.

The murdered woman was buried to-day.

The *Civil and Military Gazette* has started a subscription list for the Native cavalryman.

ANOTHER HYDERABAD SENSATION.

SUPPOSED DEPORTATION OF NAWAB SARWAR JUNG.

SECUNDERABAD, FEB. 3.

The latest Hyderabad sensation is occasioned by the departure, this morning, of Nawab Sarwar Jung, Personal Secretary to the Nizam, whose power and influence in Hyderabad for the past four or five years brought him into the greatest prominence and enemies as well. He had been freely described as the *de facto* Minister, and was certainly responsible for many an upheaval in the administration.

It is generally believed that he has been deported, and that he means to make his home in Bombay at present.

THE PESTILENCE IN POONA.

POONA, FEB. 3.

Nine fresh cases were reported, to-day, in the Municipal Office, of which two are imported and seven local.

There were twelve deaths, four of which occurred in the Sassoon Hospital, and eight in the city.

A Hindu passenger was taken out from the train dead, yesterday, while coming from Bombay.

The new sheds which are being erected near the Silk and Cotton Mill will be ready in two days, and all the patients will be removed thither.

The Parsees of Poona are raising subscriptions amongst themselves for a Special Segregation Hospital.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

ADEN, FEB. 2.

The B. I. S. N. Company's steamer Mombassa, left here this afternoon.

SUEZ, FEB. 2.

The Clan Line steamer Clan Macarthur, left here for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, the day before yesterday evening.

SINGAPORE, FEB. 3.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Mazagon left here this morning and is expected to arrive at Bombay on the 13th instant.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, FEB. 2.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed quiet. Surats dull.

Good Dhollera	3 13-32

The Manchester Market has been quiet.

2¾ per cent. Consols	112 15-16
3 per cent. Rentes	103 1-4
3½ per cent. Sterling Loan	118
3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	62 7-8
Bar Silver	29 11-16

The sum of about £50,000 has been paid into the Bank of England.

THE earnings of Indian Railways up to the 16th January are about 98 lakhs worse than for the corresponding period of last year. The East Indian earnings have improved somewhat of late but the returns of the G. I. P., Rajputana-Malwa, N.-W. Railway and B. B. lines continue to fall off owing to the cessation of traffic.

THE numerous friends and admirers of the late Miss Mathilde Blind will be glad to hear that the authorities of the Musee du Louvre have accepted her bequest of Madox Brown's fine picture, "Don Juan and Haidee." Before it goes to Paris it will, by kind permission of the same authorities, be exhibited at the Grafton Galleries, which open on the 27th instant. We are also informed that a most interesting portrait of Miss Blind by Mrs. Lucy Rossetti will be shown in the same Gallery. This portrait was bequeathed by Miss Blind to her life-long friend Dr. Garnett, of the British Museum, with whose consent it is to be exhibited. Miss Blind's executors are searching through her MSS. with a view to procuring material for a biography of her. Almost certainly a selected edition of Miss Blind's poems will be published with the contemplated memoir, which, we hear, will probably be by Dr. Garnett. The poem of St. Oran, long out of print, is much in request.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE amount distributed by the Executive Committee of the Famine Relief Fund, Calcutta, amounts to Rs. 1,10,000, namely, 40,000 to the N.-W.-P. and Oudh, 30,000 to Bengal, 15,000 each to Bombay and the Central Provinces, and 5,000 each to Madras and the Punjab.

THE actual number of those on relief in all Provinces is now 2,086,000, of whom 394,000 are in receipt of gratuitous relief. The figures for each Province are, respectively:—North-West Provinces 790,000 and 234,000; Bengal 247,000 and 7,000; Bombay 281,000 and 11,000; the Central Provinces 202,000 and 39,000; the Punjab 62,003 and 20,000; Central India 36,000 and 4,000; Madras 26,000 and 6,000; Burma 26,000 and 5,000; Rajputana 18,000 and 2,000.

THE Hyderabad Government has issued stringent plague regulations against arrivals from Western India, and a most elaborate scheme of inspection of railway passengers has been set in force at Wadi, the Western terminus of the Nizam's Railway.

THE final in the annual Billiard Tournament at Kapurthala was played between Mr. Scott, Inspecting Officer, Imperial Service, and the Maharaja, and ended in his Highness's victory. A beautiful silver cup was presented. Mr. Scott won the second prize—a mother-of-pearl pencil.

AT the last meeting of the General Committee of the Calcutta Corporation, it was resolved to retain the services of Dr. Banks, Superintendent of Conservancy and Sanitation, till the end of the current official year, *i.e.*, the 31st March.

THE Secretary to the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the Jameson raid and the administration of the British South African Company is Mr. Francis Hopwood, C. B., C. M. G., Secretary to the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.

THE Government of India have sanctioned the appointment of an additional 1st class Sergeant-Instructor to the Behar Light Horse with effect from the commencement of the next financial year.

THE horse shows this year will not be as successful as they have hitherto been. Already we have heard of smaller numbers attending those that have already been held, and we regret to find that, owing to scarcity of fodder, the following have been abolished:—Aligrah and Mozuffernagar in the North-West Provinces, and Kurnal, Delhi, Bahawulpur and Ludhiana in the Punjab. This must seriously affect horse breeding interests in these two Provinces, but under the circumstances there is no helping it.

THE Government of India have accepted the proposal of the Commander-in-Chief that the rules laid down by the Home Department for the examination of officers of the Burma Commission in Chinese, should be made generally applicable to military officers with the following modifications:—(a) That the preliminary examination, which for the present is to be held in Burma by the Adviser on Chinese Affairs, should be a simple one, just sufficient to show that an officer had learnt some words and could put them together in simple sentences. (b) An officer on passing this preliminary test, to be permitted to proceed on leave to Pekin for a period of eight months, on full pay. (c) At the end of this period an examination to be passed in the Pekin dialect; this test to be a purely colloquial one, the same as that required of Secretaries of Legation at Pekin, the examination being held in Pekin by the first Chinese Secretary. An officer passing this examination will be entitled to a reward of Rs. 1,000. Free passages to and from Burma and China will be granted only to successful candidates. Military officers from India who may wish to pass in Cantonese as a second dialect will be allowed to do so, but no special facilities will be granted in such cases in the way of leave or free passage.

AT the Academy of Medicine (says the Paris correspondent of the *Standard*), M. Magnan analysed the paper of Dr. Toulouse, constituting an inquiry into the connexion between intellectual superiority and neuropathy. That inquiry must, said M. Magnan, be made on the most eminent men in science, art, and literature, and M. Zola was selected for the first observations. Some time ago the novelist explained, in a letter made public, why he lent himaelf willlingly to the inquiry. As early as 1843, Reveille Parise, in his physiology of men occupied in intellectual work, discovered in the nervons sdisooders frequently noted among them the consequence of the too great activity of the brain., But subsequently, Moreau, of Tours, going further declared that a genius was but a man suffering from neurosis, and, lastly lombrose declared genius to be epilepsy. Those conclusions were, said M. Magnan, far from being founded on really scientific bases. Dr. Toulouse, thinking that the solution of the question demanded direct observations, has proved by long and minute observations that M. Zola is neither suffering from epilepsy nor from hysteria, and that he is not a madman; but that the numerous nervous disturbances he experiences denote a certain want of equilibrium in the nervous system, such as is noted in superior degenerated persons. The intellectual strain increases the nervous disturbanies inherent in their nature.

The estimates of the Russian Budget for 1897 show an ordinary revenue of 1,318,366,495 roubles and an ordinary expenditure of 1,284,858,862 roubles. There is thus a surplus of 33,507,633 reubles. The extraordinary expenditure, however, is estimated at 129,112,196 roubles, against 3,808,627 roubles of receipts, showing a deficiency of over 125,000,000 roubles, which is to be covered by the surplus of ordinary revenue and by drafts from the reserve fund of the Exchequer. The whole of the extraordinary expenditure is to be incurred for railway construction and rolling stock. The Finance Minister, in his memorandum accompanying the estimates, dilates on the advantages protective duties on the great progress made by Russian manufactures and industry, and on the "great and peaceful" enterprise of the Chinese Eastern Railway through Manchuria.

CAPTAIN RAMSAY, of the German East Africa forces, who has just reported on the results of his march to Lake Tanganyika, is of Scotch extraction, as his name implies, and was one of the officers whom Major von Wissmann took out with him to East Africa to suppress the first Arab insurrection there. In the time of the old Emperor, who clung to the military traditions of Frederick the Great, it was comparatively easy for a young Englishman to procure a commission in the Prussian service, and at the end of William I.'s reign the Prussian Army List contained suchnames—most of them Scottish—as Bentinck, Buchanan, Bruce, Campbell (of Craignish), Clifford, Collet, Douglas, Drummond, Ferguson, Fowler, Gibson, Gordon, Graham, Gregorie, Hamilton, Halkett, Jameson, Johnstone, Kennedy, Knox, Lawrance, Lestie, Lindsay-Carnegie, Maclean, Matheson, Munro, Ogilvie, O'Grady, Russell, Scott, Spalding, Stirling, Stoddart, Talbot, Thompson, Winsloe, and Wright.

COUNT MURAVIEFF, Russian Minister to Denmark, has been appointed Russian Chacellor, but in Vienna the appointment is regarded as a stopgap, M. Nelidoff being looked upon as the future man for the post. The Paris newspapers express satisfaction at the appointment of Count Muravieff. The *Daily News'* correspondent in Paris writes that the nomination of Count Muravieff may be regarded as almost a family appointment, and may be assumed to show that the influence of the Danish Royal family, which wae so constant during the reign of Alexander the Third, has not been repudiated by his successor. Count Muravieff was, in 1874, First Secretary of Legation in Stockholm. From 1875 to 1877 he was Secretary of Legation at the Hague. In 1882 he was appointed First Secretary of Legation in Paris. In 1885 he was transferred to Berlin; as Councillor of Legation he served under Count Schuvaloff for nearly eight years—namely, till April, 1893—when he was appointed Minister at Copenhagen. Count Muravieff is described as about fifty years old. The Muravieffs are said to be descendants of a former reigning family of Boyards in Moscow, and their direct ancestor took service under Xussian rulers about 400 years ago.

MUNICIPAL STANDING COMMITTEE.

DR. BHALCHANDRA KRISHNA presided at the usual weekly meeting of the Municipal Standing Committee, held yesterday afternoon, there being also present: Messrs. T. W. Cuffe, R. H. Vincent, Ibrahim Rahimtulla, Professor O. V. Muller, the Hon. Mr. A. M. Dharamsi, Dr. A. G. Viegas, and Mr. K M. Shroff.

BONUS TO DRAINAGE INSPECTORS.

On the recommendation of the Municipal Commissioner, the Committee sanctioned the payment of bonuses to the Chief Inspector of Drainage, Mr. W. Cluely, and the Drainage Inspector, Mr. Thurley, of Rs. 100 and Rs. 200, respectively for supervising the drainage work of certain plague affected houses in the Mandvie District. The amount will be debited to the plague grant.

DISPOSAL OF TOWN SWEEPINGS.

The Committee considered letter from the Commissioner on the subject of providing the initial outlay required for the disposal of town sweepings at Kurla.

It was resolved that the Corporation be recommended to authorize the Municipal Commissioner to apply to Government for sanction to the raising of the loan sufficient to provide for the initial outlay for the disposal of town sweepings at Chimbore, namely, a loan of Rs 6,40,000 repayable in forty years bearing interest at 3½ per cent. per annum. That pending the raising of such loan the cost of carrying out the works in question be met by advances from invested and other available balances to be adjusted hereafter when the raising of the loan would he sanctioned.

THE THOROUGH REPAIRS TO THE TANSA PIPE LINE.

The Committee deferred further consideration of letter No. 22308, dated 27th ultimo, from the Commissioner on the subject of the thorough repairs to the Tansa pipe line at Kasheli, as under:—

Sir.—In reference to the Standing Committee's Resolution No. 4470 of the 5th August 1896, I have the honour to state that the expenditure incurred in connection with the repairs to the Tansa pipe line breach near Kasheli has been Rs. 12,738 as per accompanying statement marked A-I. 2. The heavy rains of the last monsoon have weakened the whole embankment which require strengthening. The Water Engineer and the Executive Engineer recommend the execution of the following works during the current fair season, for which the necessary estimates are herewith forwarded:—(*a*) Repairs to the banks and filling in burrow juts up to Bridge No. 1, Rs. 16,311; (*b*) stone filling and pitching on the upstream side up to Bridge No. 1 including filling for aprons, Rs. 27,804-0-0; (*c*) two openings of 15 feet each, Rs. 8,000, and 500 ft. length of stone bank, Rs. 10,20 (=18,200);—total Rs. 62,115. 3. This amount with the expenditure incurred, as mentioned in the 1st para (Rs. 62,115 plus Rs. 14,738), will amount to Rs. 76,853. 4. The cost of putting the line in thorough good order is estimated at Rs. 1,78,339, but it is proposed to complete only the above-mentioned works before the next monsoon, as they are very urgent. 5. I, therefore, request the sanction of the Standing Committee and the Corporation to the execution of the works mentioned above and to the cost thereof being met as under:—Rs. 9,923-12-0 from the balance of the grant provided in the Budget for 1896-97 for repairs to the Kasheli embankment; Rs. 66,929-4-0 from the cash balance.—I have, &c.,

P. C. H. SNOW, Commissioner.

RINDERPEST AND MUNICIPAL LIVE STOCK.

The Committee recorded letter to the Secretary No. 23064, dated 1st instant, from the Commissioner, stating, with reference to the inquiry made by the Standing Committee in regard to the breaking out of rinderpest amongst the Health Department bullocks, that the Health Officer reports that there is not a single bullock of his department suffering from that disease at present.

UNNECESSARY FRIGHT.

The Committee considered report from the Commissioner on petition from Mr. Framji Hormasji and other residents of old Modi khana, complaining of the prevalence of bubonic fever in the locality by the opening of manholes of the drains in Frere Road, &c.

It was resolved that the report be recorded, and a copy thereof be furnished to the petitioners.

The reports from the Executive Engineer and the Health Officer on the subject was submitted by the Commissioner, in which it was emphatically denied by both the officers that the plague cases had anything to do with the cleansing of the drains and opening of the manholes. The Health Officer was of opinion that people got easily frightened without any reasonable cause, and instead of paying attention to the sanitary condition of their own rooms and residences they unnecessarily attached blame to the drains some yards away from their houses.

THE MORTALITY RETURNS.

In accordance with a notice of motion, Mr. K. N. Kabraji proposed that the attention of the Municipal Commissioner be drawn to the following extract from Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee Bunshaw's Mortality Returns for the last quarter of 1896, as published in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 23rd ultimo, with a request to report what explanation, if any, the Health Officer has to offer on the same:—"I find that in the table of the summary of deaths amongst all races for the week ending 3rd November, published by the Health Officer, the separate totals of the deaths amongst all castes do not correspond with the totals of the different diseases to which they are attributed. The table should be republished in an amended form in the *Government Gazette*."

Mr. Cuffe and Mr. Vincent thought that the form was objectionable, and Mr. Kabraji changed the motion to the effect "That the Commissioner's attention be drawn to the mortuary returns for the week ending 3rd November published by the Health Officer in the *Government Gazette*, and that he be requested to report on it.

Mr. K. M. Shroff seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

After transacting some more business, the Committee adjourned.

THE GRIEVANCES OF VICTORIA-WALLAS.

THE victoriawallas have addressed the following petitions to the Income Tax-Collector and the Police Commissioner:—

From Messrs. Brown and Moir, Solicitors, High Court, Bombay. To the Income Tax Collector, Bombay.

Bombay, 1st February, 1897.

Sir.—We have the honour to address you, on behalf of Messrs. Dadabhoy Nusserwanji Kerawalla, Cursondas Govindji, Khimji Nathu, Premji Dewcaran, Soorji Damji, Ebrahim Hafiz, Fattoo Noor Mahomed, Pestonji Hormusji, Cursetji Nowroji, Khoja Hurji Macan, Cassumalli Esmailji, and others, owners of hack-victorias in Bombay, who instruct us to inform you that owing to the present state of Bombay in consequence of the presence of the plague the Municipal Commissioner has reduced the Municipal tax on victorias from Rs. 70-2-0 to Rs. 49-2-0, but still charges income-tax for the current year at Rs. 10 for each victoria as usual, though as a matter of fact no income could be expected to be derived in the current year. We are, therefore, instructed to request you to take the circumstances of these owners into your consideration and to relieve them from income tax for the current year.—We have, &c.,

BROWN AND MOIR.

From Messrs. Brown and Moir, Solicitors, High Court, Bombay. To the Commissioner of Police, Bombay.

Bombay, 1st February, 1897.

Sir.—Referring to our letter to you, of the 11th ultimo, on behalf of certain owners of hack-victorias in Bombay, we have the honour to state on their behalf that they feel highly obliged for your having prevailed upon the Municipal Commissioner and got a reduction of taxes hitherto paid, but they regret to find that they are not exempted from the income tax, when as a matter of fact they do not actually derive any such income.

We are now instructed to request you to lay these facts before the Municipal Commissioner and to recommend our clients to the Income Tax Commissioner for exemption of the tax intended to be so levied upon them.

We are further instructed to inform you that they have applied to the Income-Tax Collector for the exemption of such taxes, and they have to request that until they receive a reply to such application you will allow them to ply their victorias as hithertofore and that no plates be removed.—We have, &c.,

BROWN AND MOIR.

A RUMOUR comes from Glasgow that the Admiralty intends to introduce a new class of torpedo-destroyer with a minimum speed of 33 knots, and that 20 of these vessels will be ordered with very little delay. Reports of this nature have been for some time in circulation, and they are now becoming a little more definite.

THE Russian Budget for 1897 shows a surplus of 33,000,000 roubles. An extraordinary expenditure, however, of 130,000,000 is to be incurred for railway construction and rolling stock, leaving a deficiency of over 100,000,000. The Finance Minister dilates on the advantages of protecteve duties on the great progress made by Russian manufactures and industry, and on "the great and peaceful" enterprise of the Chinese Eastern Railway through Manchuria. German newspapers continue to discuss warmly Count Muravieff's appointment as head of the Russian Foreign Office, ond while recognising his diplomatic ability and energy several of them persist in regarding him as the enemy of Germany. One writer who knew Count Muravieff in Copenhagen writes to the effect that while not sympathetic to Germany, very circumspect towards Austria, and hostile to the Triple Alliance, he is particularly favourable towards France.

THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE annual general meeting of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce was held, yesterday afternoon, in the rooms of the Chamber, Graham's Buildings, the Hon'ble Mr. A. F. Beaufort, the Chairman, presiding. There were also present:—

The Hon'ble Mr A F Beaufort (Chairman in the Chair); A Abercrombie (Messrs Latham Abercrombie & Co.); Messrs F N Graham (Messrs W & A Graham & Co); S L Wyatt (Manager, Agra Bank, Limited); George Cotton (Messrs Greaves Cotton & Co); C H Armstrong (Messrs Lyon & Co); C H B Forbes (Messrs C H B Forbes & Co.); I M Shields (Superintendent, P & O S N Company); C. Barbora (Rubattino S N Company); B H J & C H J Rustomjee (Messrs H J Rustomjee & Co); E Scurpa (Austrian Lloyd's S N Company); T Sharples (Messrs Kerr, Tarruck & Co); J Tintner (Messrs A Blascheck & Co); A Francke (Messrs J G Trefftz and John); A Nichols (Marr J Duxbury & Co Ld.); D H Glade Merssrs Glade & Co); C G Giro (Messrs Ralli Brothers); H F Wagstaff (South British Fire and Marine Insurance Co. Ld); S Comfort (Standard Oil Company of New York); A Mair (Credit Lyonnais) R H Macaulay (Messrs Wallace & Co); G Prier de Saone (Messrs Prier de Saone & Co); P B Savil (Messrs Forbes & Co); S M More and S E Shellim (Messrs David Sasoon & Co); G W Roughton (Messrs Roughton & Byrne); J Humphrey (Messrs. Latham & Co); John M Heyn (Messrs John M Heyn & Co); F A Reddie and H E E Proctor (Messrs Killick Nixon & Co); A F Simpson (Imperial Bank of Persia); J L Symons and J Fariclough (Messrs Finlay Muir & Co); Vizbhucandas Atmaram (Messrs Narandas Rajaram & Co); E F Allum (Messrs Aldridge Salmon & Co Ld); William Greaves (Messrs Ewart Latham & Co); C Douglas and Leighton B Ker (Messrs Ritchie Steuart & Co); G H Tounsend (Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation); F W Flower (Messrs Edward Bates & Co); G MacLaren (Messrs Owen & Okell); E Schoen (Messrs Gaddum & Co); A B Earle & C H S Boggs (Messrs Sanday & Co); and Mr John Marshall, Secretary.

Mr. John Marshall, the Secretary, having read the notice convening the meeting, the annual report, which had been circulated among the members, was taken as read. The following are extracts therefrom:—

The administrative work of the Chamber, and the number of matters which the Committee have had to deal with during the year, have been well up to the average, both in variety and interest. There has been a notable diminution of references from Government with regard to commercial legislation; and for the first time in many years, in the records of the Chamber there has not been a single case of special arbitration referred to the Committee for settlement during the past twelve months. One of the most important subjects discussed has been.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.

In paragraphs which appeared in the public press in July last, it was intimated that proposals were before the Government of India for the meeting of an Official Committee, under the presidency of H. the E. Viceroy, for the comprehensive consideration of the railway schemes which had been suggested for adoption from various parts of India. As the conference was only a meeting convened mainly as a matter of procedure to facilitate the disposal of business already before Government, and not with the object of eliciting fresh opinions and proposals, its representations should only be with reference to schemes already proposed to, or under the consideration of Government. The Committee, therefore, in laying their proposals before the Government of India, confined their remarks to the following schemes in which they took special interest and which, they, understood, were already before Government, namely, (1) the Nagda-Bara-Muttra line; (2) the Godhra-Baroda Chord line; (3) Amalner to Jalgaon line; (4) Chalisgaon-Dhulia line; (5) Ajmeer-Kuchaman-Rewari line. In submitting these schemes the Chamber did not desire to enter into the respective merits of the various modes which might have been suggested for financing the cost, whether proposed by promoters or existing companies. They, however, respectfully submitted that rupee capital should be afforded every possible inducement for investment, and where any schemes came before Government in which proposals were made alternatively in sterling or rupees, the Chamber strongly recommended that, other things being equal, rupee capital should always have the preference. At the close of the year the Chamber had intimation from the Bombay Government that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India had been placed in possession of the views of the Government of India on the general question of the construction of new branch lines of railway and extensions for the development of the country, and that His Lordship's orders were awaited.

THE NAGDA-MUTTRA RAILWAY.

While advocating, on general lines, the extension of railway communication in India by means of feeder lines, the Committee of the Chamber have not been unmindful of the more pressing needs of the country to the development of main lines of communication. It has never been any part of the policy of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to begrudge or object to railway development in other parts or centres of trade, and the recent correspondence initiated by this Chamber with the Agents and Home Boards of the B. B. & C. I. and G. I. P. Railways on the subject of the adverse rates ruling for goods traffic between Delhi and other centres in the North West Provinces and Bombay, as compared with the rates charged over the East Indian Railway to Calcutta, again brought into prominence the disadvantage Bombay labored under from the want of direct through communication with the North-West on lines of one gauge and under one administration. When, therefore, the co-operation of the Committee was invited to the urgent necessity of constructing the Nagda-Muttra Railway, the Chamber lost no time in representing the matter to the Government of Bombay and soliciting their strongest sympathy and advocacy with the Government of India for the immediate construction of the line. In the various communications from the Home Board and the Agent in this country of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Company, figures were given proving almost to demonstration the probably profitable character of the proposed Nagda-Muttra line, and all the information at the disposal of the Chamber indicated that it would traverse large tracts of fertile and in many instances well-populated country, with and in which a large trade could rapidly be developed by the introduction of railway communication. The Chamber's representation has been forwarded by the Bombay Government to the Government of India, and that in doing so His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has expressed his opinion that the line should be undertaken at an early date.

RAILWAY RATES TO CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY.

The Committee of the Chamber have been in active correspondence with the Railway Companies and Government on this subject, in continuation of their previous representations, and in July last they addressed the Agents of the B. B. & C. I. Railway at great length, reviewing the various communications received by the Chamber direct and the criticisms which had been evoked in other parts of India in connection with the action taken by the Chamber in this important matter, as also giving further facts and figures in support of their request for a reduction of rates. The Committee saw no other way of obtaining redress for the commercial community than by respectfully soliciting Government to appoint Commissioners, under the Indian Railways Act, in terms of section 43 of which the Chamber held that it should lie on the railway administrations to show that the rates prevailing to Bombay from the North-West Provinces and Oudh were not preferential rates against Bombay traders. To this request Government replied on the 20th August, pointing out that so long as the maxima rates laid down by the Government of India for particular railways were not infringed, there was nothing to prevent the administrations of those railways from altering the rates charged on their lines, if they considered it desirable to take such a step. As regards the appointment of a Commission, Government desired to be favoured with a more definite expression of the views of the Chamber as to the Railway Administration which gave undue or unreasonable preference, or against what Railway Administration the Chamber alleged that it charged any traders or class of traders lower rates than it charged to other traders or class of traders, adding that undue preference must be the act of one Railway Administration, and that the independent action of one Railway Administration could not render another Administration, which had no power to control the action of the first, guilty of the offence of undue perference. Replying to this enquiry, the Committee informed Government that the Railway Administration which the Chamber alleged gave undue preference to one body of traders over another body, was the East Indian Railway, the action of which Company, they contended, came with the Section of the Act referred to in the correspondence, as this Company deliberately prevented produce coming to Bombay by levying charges—on such portions of their line that it had to pass over to connect with the railways running towards Bombay—out of all proportion to those charged on their own line towards Howrah. The Committee further added that they did not hold that the fact of the East Indian Railway not having exceeded, or gone below, the maxima and minima rates it could charge, affected the question at issue. On the 8th September the Chamber was informed that its representation had been forwarded to the Government of India for such action as that Government might consider necessary. In the interval the Chamber has been favoured by the Secretary to the Board of Directors of the B. B. & C. I. Railway with a copy of an extract (para. 44) from the Board's despatch to the Campany's Agent in India in regard to the Chamber's letter to that official. The Board stated that they are not prepared to admit that the charges made by that Company are "unfair" either absolutely for the service rendered, or relatively when compared with the charges made by the East Indian Railway to Calcutta, when the circumstances on the two systems are fairly considered. The despatch then went on to say: "This Company's average working cost was, in fact, both actually per ton mile, and relatively to its gross earnings, considerably above the corresponding expenditure of the East Indian Railway, and its charges for wheat and seeds to Bombay are, consequently, justifiably higher than the charges of the East Indian Railway to Calcutta. The Board are, however, disposed to consider that our rates to Bombay for seeds, which are somewhat higher than for wheat, should be reduced to those charged for wheat from North-West junction stations, and that some further reductions in our charges for both from competitive points may be advisable, but they will await the General Traffic Manager's report as to what he deems feasible, in the present position of the Company's available means of transport, and without materially imperilling its revenue, together with your own further observations on the matter."

PROPOSED ACCELERATION OF THE DAILY MAIL TRAINS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENCY CITIES.

This question has again been under the consideration of Government, and in September last the Chamber was approached by the Consulting Engineer for Railways, Bombay, with reference to a possible acceleration of the speed of the ordinary daily service of mail trains between Calcutta and Bombay and between Bombay and Madras. The Consulting Engineer stated that the time of the departure of the mail trains from either Bombay, Madras or Calcutta was a matter of considerable moment to the public, and his opinion was that the most convenient hour was some time at night after the day's work was over—say, about 9 p.m. This being fixed, it did not appear to him a matter of any consequence when the mail trains arrived at their final destination; for instance, the mail train from Calcutta, which at present reaches Bombay at 6 a.m. could, if accelerated, arrive at its destination at one o'cloak in the morning. In that event, it seemed to him that if passengers were allowed the option of either leaving the train at once or staying in it till daybreak, the acceleration was a clear gain, and the opinion of the Chamber was invited on this point. The Consulting Engineer did not think that passengers would loss in any way by this early arrival, and that the Post Office would obviously have several hours more in which to deal with the letters. The Committee of the Chamber agreed with Colonel Selby that it was a matter of imporatance to the public that the daily mail train from each of the Presidency cities should not be despatched earlier than 9 p.m., but as to the time of arrival at final destination, the example given of a train arriving at 1 a.m., was one which they had no hesitation in saying would be a source of considerable inconvenience and discomfort to the public, the termini of the Presidency cities being about the last places, in their opinion, in which the ordinary traveller could secure rest in the interval between the arrival and dawn. To a further lengthy communication, received from the Consulting Engineer on the subject the Committee replied that in theory they were in agreement with his views in regard to the accelaration of the daily inter. Presidency mail Service, but that before expressing their concurrence with any spetial scheme they would like to examine the suggested times of arrival and departure at the several important junctions touched at by the Bombay-Calcutta and Bombay-Madras mail trains and *vice versa*. At the same time the Chamber was glad to learn that there seemed no apparent difficulty in accelerating, for instance, the Calcutta-Bombay mail trian so as to arrive in Bombay at the hour suggested by the Committee. Similar by it if the Madras-Bombay mail-train was accelerated as proposed by them a considerable gain on the present speed would be secured. That the trains thus accelerated should reach some of the principal junctions on *route* at inconvenient hours was a difficulty, which the Committee pointed out, existed not only in India, but also on the Continent of Europe and to a less extent in England; and it was one which, they feared, could not easily be got over.

LANDING OF PASSENGERS FROM ENGLISH MAIL STEAMERS.

The inconvenience and delay recently experienced by passengers in landing from the English mail steamers and obtaining delivery of their baggage, led to representations being made by the Chamber to the Superintendent of the P. and O. S. N. Company and the Trustees of the Port with a view to better arrangements being made in this respect in future. They suggested that, in future, the accredited representatives of certain recognised firms should only be permitted to board the steamer on her arrival, and that they should be required to go on board by the company's tenders only, no other boats or steam launches being permitted to approach within a considerable radius of the vessel, adding that in the case of the "India," the large number of boats and launches caused intense annoyance to passengers by smoke emitted from and the continuous use of the steam whistles of the latter, while they hampered the movements of the P. and O. launches, and were not without possible source of danger to life from collision. In writing to the Trustees of the Port, the Committee suggested that, in view of the difficulties and inconveniences which had already arisen, and the probability of their frequent occurrence in future, the Ballard Pier should be widened to at least double its present width, and that the step-accommodation for landing should be extended so that two large launches, such as those employed by the P. and O. S. N. Co., could be accommodated at the same time. At a later date the Chamber was favoured by the Superintendent of the P. and O. S. N. Company with copy of a communication addressed to him by the Collector of Land Revenue, Customs aud Opium, giving details of the alteration he proposed to make in the system for clearing passengers' baggage by the inward mail steamers, namely:—(1) Blank forms of baggage declaration to be supplied to the P. and O. Co.'s Agent at Aden, and to be sent by him on board each in-coming steamer bound for Bombay on its arrival in Aden harbour; (2) These forms to be carefully distributed under the orders of the P. and O. S. N. Co. amongst the passengers as soon as the ship leaves Aden, and filled up and signed by them before arrival in Bombay harbour; (3) The declaration so filled up and signed to be handed to the Preventive Inspector who boards the steamers on arrival. This officer will collect all duty due then and there on board, with the assistance of his Preventive staff; (4) On payment of the duty the declaration will be handed back to the passengers concerned, and they will present them to the Preventive Officer at or near the Customs exit gate on the Ballard Pier when passing out with their baggage. The chief object in this proposed change of procedure is to save the time of the passengers in clearing their baggage at the Ballard Pier. Under the new arrangement they will be able to pay duty on anything they may declare dutiable on board the steamer while their baggage is being removed to the shore; so that all they will have to do with the Customs officials after landing will be to show the receipted declaration the Preventive Officer at the Ballard Pier gate, who will ordinarily pass the baggage out, unless he sees reason to direct examination. The Collector was of opinion that the custom of people boarding the mail steamers in order to meet friends should be discouraged as much as possible, as the presence of a considerable number of non-passengers on board must necessarily impede the work of the Preventive Officers in checking the declarations and collecting the Customs dues. And he also considered that it would greatly expedite the sorting of baggage at the Pier if it could be arranged to place all packages bearing the same number as closely together as possible in the lighters and to discharge them at the Pier in the same order.

COTTON.

Last season India exported to Europe 1,104,000 bales, to Japan, China and other foreign Eastern Ports 341,000 bales, an aggregate of 1,448,000 bales. Her spinning mills consumed 1,409,000 bales, and if the official estimate of 413000 bales for local consumption published a few years ago is approximately correct the crop accounted for was 3,270,000 bales, or 614,000 bales larger than the previous season, but 91,000 babes less than the quantity brought into sight in 1889-90. The crop of 1893-97 promises much less hopefully. The area sown in all the leading growing districts was considerably in excess of the previous year; but the unfavourable character of the monsoon rains which terminated in August has greatly restricted the yield; and except, perhaps, in Guzerat, the out-turn will fall very much below the previous season. The decrease has already made itself apparent in the receipts of the earlier growths as from November 1st up to the end of the past year.

WHEAT.

Two unfavourable seasons have been succeeded last year by the worst on record since statistics have been available regarding the crop. The area planted was 4,217,000 acres less than the preceding year, and 3,561,678 acres less than the average of thefive preceding year. The estimated out-turn has been proportionately small, being 1,404,000 tons less than the preceding twelve months, and 1,579,650 tons less than the estimated average of the previous five years. Of this decrease, the heaviest, proportionately, has been in the Central Provinces, although the Punjab and the North-West Provinces, being the largest growing districts, account for a large bulk of the deficiency. Naturally, after two short crops the exports to Europe have been very limited, the total being less than one-fourth of the previous year, Calcutta has almost ceased to export, while Bombay, small as her exports are, is ahead of Karachi.

COMMERCIAL CAUSES IN THE HIGH COURT.

The Committee of the Chamber appointed a special Committee to further consider the matter and draw up a report for submission to the High Court Committee. This report was embodied in a communication from the Chamber and forwarded to the Committee referred to, a copy being at the same time sent to the Prothonotary and Registrar for the favour of it being laid before the Honourable the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court, in order to place before them the views of the Chamber in regard to procedure more immediately connected with commercial causes. The Chamber cordially supported the representations of the Committee of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society as set forth in their letter of 3rd October, 1895, and more particularly as to the advisability of only one counsel being briefed in cases set apart to be tried under the special commercial causes list.

In acknowledging the receipt of the papers the Prothonotary and Registrar informed the Chamber that its representation had been laid before the Committee appointed by the High Court from whom its proposals would receive attentive consideration. At the same time he pointed out that it was not intended to place in the newly devised list of "Commercial Causes" only light or unimportant cases but that cases of length, difficulty and importance might find their way into it, such as no counsel, of any standing, could possibly undertake single-handed, and that a general rule allowing only one counsel in commercial causes might cause serious loss to the successful party in many instances. As regards the fees marked or allowed to counsel holding briefs in Chambers—to which reference had been made in the Chamber's letter—the Prothonotary pointed out that the fee allowed on such briefs or taxation was three gold mohurs only, whether senior or junior counsel be engaged.

THE INDIAN COTTON DUTIES AND TARIFF ACTS.

The Chamber has been consulted at various times during the year under review on points connected with the working of these Acts, and the Committee have rendered such assistance as lay in their power. They also approved of the representation made by the Madras Chamber of Commerce to Government urging—with reference to the competition of prison and free labour—that jails be brought within the Factory Act and, with other buildings now within the scope of that Act, be called "mills" for the purposes of the Cotton Duties Act, whether the motive power in any such jail or factory, was machine or hand. The matter, however, had already engaged the attention of the Government of India, and before the representation from the Madras Chamber had time to reach the authorities, a Notification was issued to Local Governments by the Home Department, requiring the excise duty to be taken into account in fixing the selling prices of the prison-made cotton goods competing with goods paying the duty to Government.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAPH VOCABULARY.

The representations made in the first instance by this and latterly other Chambers of Commerce in connection with the official vocabulary of code words, compiled by the Berne International Telegraph Office has, the Committee are glad to state, resulted, so far, in the obligatory use of the code being indefinitely postponed pending the issue of a new edition. This decision was arrived at at the recent Telegraph Conference held at Budapest. In communicating this information to the Chamber the Director-General of Telegraphs in India stated that the general desire expressed at the Conference in regard to this vocabulary was to satisfy to the fullest extent the wishes of merchants and Chambers of Commerce, and that to this end it was clearly advisable to reproduce in the new edition all the admissible words now to be found in actually existing private codes. It was his opinion, therefore, that the request made in the circular issued by the International Office to be furnished with copies of private codes was a reasonable one, as if they were consulted and fully made use of there should be no cause for complaints hereafter that any particular interest had been neglected; while the codes themselves, he considered, would remain seviceable even after the vocabulary was declared obligatory, provided they were constructed in accordance with the regulations laid down for International Telegraphy. The Chamber while welcoming the proposed issue of a revised edition of this code, informed the Director-General that it was strongly opposed to it ever being made compulsory, existing private codes and keys, so long as they conformed to telegraphic rules, being made permissible.

TRADE IN CHINESE TURKESTAN.

Through the courtesy of Captain G. C. Trench British Joint Commissioner at Ladak, the Chamber was favoured during the year with samples of German and French manufactures which Indian merchants were carrying for sale to buyers for Chinese Turkestan. In forwarding these samples Captain Trench said that it might be through ignorance of the requirements on the part of the large houses in Bombay, or ignorance on the part of the trader from what house he could purchase similar goods of English manufacture that the German and French articles held the field, and it seemed to him a pity that such goods were not suplied to merchants from England. In any case he was of opinion that English houses, who could supply similar goods should send him their cards together with a pattern, if possible, of any of the stuffs forwarded by him, so that he might distribute them to the traders who bought in Bombay.

In thanking the British Joint Commissioner at Ladak for the information he had been goodenough to supply, the Committee pointed out that so long as traders of the Continent of Europe were at liberty to import and sell their productions in this country, and were able to undersell British manufactures, so long would the native dealersbuy from the cheapest sellers; but that the samples sent, and the information suplied by him, would be passed on to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce for the guidance of Lancashire makers. This was accordingly done, and in acknowledging receipt of the papers, the Secretary of the Manchester Chamber said that the patterns would be exhibited to firms interested in this trade, and that the Committee's letter, as well as Captain Trench's communication, would be published in their "Monthly Record" for general information.

EXPORTS OF INDIAN TEA TO CENTRAL ASIAN MARKETS.

The question of the quality of tea exported from India for Central Asian Markets engaged the attention of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, in consequence of unfavourable reports received from Consular Officers as to the quality sent forward. The Chamber having been asked to look into the matter so far as the exports from Bombay were concerned, enquiries were made by the Committee among the principal shippers in Bombay. Messrs. Grindlay Groom & Co., who are intimately acquainted with the tea trade on this side of India, stated that so far as their experience went they know of no tea answering the description given by the Vice-Consul for Khorassan or with the brokers' valuation and report sent to the Indian Tea Association. All the tea that passed through their hands for either sale or shipment had, they stated, been genuine tea, and that no question as to their fitness for consumption could be entertained. Messrs. David Sassoon & Co., who are also large exporters of tea, bore similar testimony, and in addressing the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association, the Committee forwarded copies of the reports received from these firms on the subject.

CHAMBER'S STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS.

A desire having been expressed that information respecting the amount of rupee paper enforced for payment would be of use to members of the Chamber if supplied regularly, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Bombay has, at the request of the Committee, been good enough to furnish the Chamber with a statement, weekly, showing the amount of Government promissory notes enfaced from Bombay to London and from London to Bombay at Bombay, and this information is now published regularly with the Current Quotations issued by the Chamber. The return of daily arrivals of cotton, wheat and seeds by rail and sea has been considerably improved during the year, and is now includes information of the daily arrivals of principal food grains into Bombay, as also the receipts of the various growths of cotton to date, compared with the corresponding periods in the previous season. The monthly statement published by the Chamber showing the stocks and deliveries of cotton piece-goods and yarn, copper and yellow metal sheets, has also been enlarged, and the return—in addition to the information previously given—now shows the number of cases and bales of cotton piece-goods and yarn delivered to sundry merchants and passed out from the docks; increase or decrease on the preceding months stocks, and, for purposes of comparisons the corresponding stocks in each month of the years 1891-1895. The Committee are indebted to the Trustees of the Port for having undertaken to furnish the Chamber with the figures of deliveries fron the docks, in addition to the information supplied by their Traffic Manager in regard to the stocks at, and deliveries from the warehouses of the Trust. Owing to the enlargement and increased number of the returns published by the Chamber, it is found that the charges made to members and others from same do not cover cost of printing and the statistical establishment. The Committee will accordingly bring forward a resolution at the general meeting to raise the scale of charges all round.

GOVERNMENT TRADE RETURNS.

With reference to the monthly statement issued by the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, showing the imports of cotton, wheat, linseed and indigo into Calcutta, Bombay and Kurrachee, the Committee—with the view of making the return of great use to the commercial community and at the same time forming valuable appendices to their own returns—addressed the Director-General of Statistics in March last suggesting that the statement should include (1) the imports by sea as well as by road and rail, and (2) that maunds (of 82 2-7lb.) should be reduced to cwts. also that the quarterly rail returns should be given in place of maunds. The Director-General has been pleased to give effect to the first two ofthese suggestions and with regard to the third he intimated that he hoped to be able to meet the wishes of the Chamber at a later date. At the request of the Committee the Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium has been good enough to give instructions to have the totals of each separate article (quantities and values) made up in the trade returns for Bombay and Sind which are published monthly in the local *Government Gazette*.

PREPARATION OF CROP FORECASTS

The suggestions made by the Chamber last year, at the request of Government, regarding the simplification of the form of the table attached to the final forecasts of crops, have been adopted by the Government of India, and copies of the revised form were forwarded to Local Governments and other authorities by the Director-General of Statistics, requesting that it should be substituted for the form previously prescribed. The object of the revision is to eliminate expressions of doubtful meaning, to delete columns which it is difficult to fill up accurately, and to make the form generally clearer, simpler, and more precise

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

The Bombay Government having appointed a Scientific Committtee for the purpose of enquiring into the nature and history of the bubonic plague in Bombay' the Chamber, in response to a request from Government, expressed thir willingness to render any assistance which lay in their power to the Committee in question. The prevalence of this disease has led to the imposition of quarentine and the enforcement of plague regulations in European and Foreign countries, and also at Indian Ports, a gainst vessels arriving from Bombay. The Chamber has frequently in recent years called the attention of Government to this subject, when quarentine had been imposed by the Turkash nnd Egyptian authorites, and they have invariably been successful in securing the sympathy and assistance of both the Government of Bombay and of the Government of India. In this instance the Committee at first thought of addressing Government on the subject, but the rapid devolopment of the disease rendered it evident that it would be futile to hope that their representations would have any effect, and they therefore refrained from taking action

Other matters dealt with in the port included the question of railway rates for the carriage of seed from Akola to Bombay and Calcutta, the suggestions made by the Chamber respecting the new contract for the conveyance of mail between Europe and the East, the hour of attendance of special jurors at the Criminal Sessions Court ; the opinions expressed by the Committee in regard to various legislative proposals during the year, the amendment of the form of laicais agreement ; the alteration of Government rules in regard to various matters affecting trade interests, the working of the Indian Merchandis Marks Act, and the registration of trade marks ; refunds of stampe duty on spoiled bills of exchange ; telegraph charges between India and Europe ; a proposed uniform system of storm signals, &c. ; opinions or samples of produce submitted to the Chamber ; arbitrations, &c. &c.

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen,—Before I move the adoption of the report which has been in your hands for a few days—I wish it had been possible for a longer period—I will briefly touch upon the more important subjects which have engaged the attention of your Committee during the past twelve months. Each has been clearly and exhaustively reviewed with his accustomed ability, by our Secretary, and I shall endeavour therefore to condense my remarks as much as possible.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.

The importance of Railway extension is admitted on all hands. We have watched the increasing interest taken, not only by the Government of India, but also by the Viceroy himself in this direction. Lord Elgin, by appointing the Committee, which a few months ago met to discuss the various projects before the Supreme Government, only followed precedent, but in deciding to preside over its deliberations he went further than is usual, and thereby emphasised his opinion of the importance of the subject. There are still enormous tracts of this country, the produce of which can only be conveyed to markets under great difficulties, expense and delay ; but each year sees the line drawn closer. The process is slow, exceedingly slow in the opinion of mony of us, but the financial position of the Government of India of late years has naturally acted as a drag. Forty years ago, at the close of 1855-56, there were open for traffic but 273 miles of railway in this country. Ten years later 3,569, in the succeeding decades the aggregate rose to 6,833 12,376 and on 31st March last to 19,678 miles, a total addition in forty years of 19,405 miles, which looks satisfactory till you consider this means but 485 miles per annum. The direct net result financially to the Government of India, if the capital cost is taken into consideration, is, I am aware, not entirely favourable, because a considerable mileage was undertaken for strategic, rather than for trade requirements, but the indirect results are incalculable and every mile of increase, now undertaken, is adding not only to the indirect, but also to the direct advantage of the country. This Chamber has ever been ready to assist, as far as it lies in its power, the prosecution of any schemes which promised to develop the resources of the country, cheapen the means of transit, and bring production more directly to the consumer. It has been especially anxious to encourage the construction, when possible, of lines with a rupee capitable, and it is very gratifying to have seen the first sod turned of two such undertakings in little over twelve months at the instance of one of its own members, a former Chairman, in the person of Mr. Forrest. Though he has recently left India, I feel sure his interest in this direction remains, for his firm has quite recently asked for the Chamber's support of a project further north, which we have left for the new Committee to deal with. The importance of the continuation of the broad gauge line from Rutlam across Rajputana, via Bara and Muttra, to join the same system in Northern India, is one of the most important undertakings which we have backed up in the past year. It is certain, I feel confident, to have received the support of the Government of India in its despatch to the Secretary of State, and I trust orders will soon be received for its commencement. The other lines mentioned in the Report we also attach much value to, as the papers when they appear in the Appendix, will show.

RAILWAY RATES.

As you will have seen from time to time in the local press, to whom I would here take the opportunity of expressing our warmest thanks for the liberal manner in which they let us fill a great deal of valuable space with our correspondence, and thereby enable us to supply you and the public generally with early information of what we are doing. We have once again had some severe skirmishing with the Railway Companies which as resulted in our appealing to the Government of India to take action against the East India Railway under Section 43 of the Indian Railways Act, for their practical boycotting of Bombay in the N.-W. Provinces, by the rates charged there for the conveyance of produce from their line on to the connecting systems communicating with Bombay. The defence of the B. B. and C. I. Railway appears to us very weak and practically amounts to this, that because the East India can secure fuel cheaper than it can, it is impossible to compete with it and the B. B. and C. I. and Rajputana Malwa must be thankful to pick up such crumbs as it can from the Lazarus of the Eurasian concern. We await the reply of the Government of India to our letter of remonstrance with much interest.

THE DAILY INTER-PRESIDENCY MAIL TRAINS.

The acceleration of the daily mail trains to and from Calcutta and Madras has again been under discussion, the subject having been broached by the Consulting Engineer for Railways to this Government in a communication to us. We were unable to agree with Colonel Selby, that as long as a mail train was accelerated, it was not a matter of material importance at what hour it reached its terminus. At present, the mail from Calcutta, it is admitted, drags out the best portions of the last night by unnecessary stoppages and curtailment of speed, so as not to arrive before daylight, and the Consulting Engineer is laudably anxious to remedy matters by acceleration. But to do this it appeared to us it did not require a very alarmiag rate of speed to be maintained to bring the Calcutta mail train into Bombay the evening before the present morning arrival, while acceleration might be equally secured for the Madras mail by a later departure from that city. We agreed in the importance of despatching the daily mails in the evening after 9 p.m., but we could not see why passengers arriving at the presidency cities, should be inconvenienced by an arrival, such for example as 1 a.m., the privilege of remaining in their carriages in, say, even our palatial Victoria Terminus being a concession which few travellers would appreciate, and which, I am confident, would give rise to very great dissatisfaction. Since the Report was issued we have been invited to send a representative to a conference which is to be shortly held to discuss this subject. I am glad to see the proposal to send a second mail by the Bengal Nagpur line is to be brought forward. As we pointed out at the time, a break on the usual mail route by the East India Railway, which necessitated the letters coming by the Bengal Nagpur line resulted in an arrival at Bombay no less than eight hours quicker than before or since. We have to thank the usual obstructive policy of the East India Railway for the continuance of this scandal, a scandal which I should have thought the Government of India would have put a stop to without a day's delay, but which, apart from the present proposals, would only have ceased the day the first Bengal Nagpur train ran direct into Calcutta.

THE MAIL CONTRACT WITH EUROPE.

In April last we addressed the local Post Master General on this subject, and he replied expressing a hope that he would be able to place the papers before us in July. Meanwhile tenders had been called for at home, without the Chambers in this country being given an opportunity of expressing their views. In July, we again addressed the Post Master General, and in doing so took the opportunity of giving him our ideas as to what the requirements of the contract should embrace. We advocated a 15 knot speed for the first five years and 16½ in the last five, and also stated the most convenient days and hours for arrival at and despatch from Bombay. But the Director General remains mute, for no papers have yet reached us, and we are but little wiser now than we were a year ago. The inference is obvious. If rumour be correct, but two firms of ship owners have tendered besides the present contractors, neither of whom possess a boat, much less a fleet, capable of carrying out even the existing contract. They offer, so I am told, to provide despatch boats of about 1,200 tons each to run at some 14 knots which, rumour again says, is the maximum the Government of India is prepared to pay for. Why should they be satisfied with such a wretched speed ? Because they know that the present contractors if paid, for say only a 14 knots contract—the present one is for but 12½ knots—will, for the requirements of their passenger traffic, be compelled to run over this speed, the slowest boats likely to be utilised for the new contract, from February 1898, being able to run easily, as at present, at 15 knots and over, while the company will possess by then eleven vessels, the economical speed of the majority of which is not less than 16½ to 17 knots. With these facts before us, I think it must be agreed that our demands were fair and reasonable. The P. and O. Company possibly does not thank us for our intervention, but we have to look to the public requirements. At the same time it must be obvious to any one who has looked into the matter that there is no real competition for this contract. If either of the reported two tenderers, other than the P. and O., were given the contract, what would be the result ? Letters and passengers by the premier Shipping Company of the World would be delivered, via, say, Marseilles, probably a couple of days before the mails, in the despatch boats via Brindisi, reached London. Would such a state of affairs be tolerated for a month ? On the other hand, I have frequently heard and read in the papers of demands being made for even faster boats, vessels capable of maintaining a speed of 17 knots and over. A reference to Lloyds Register shows how many ocean-going craft exist able to maintain on long voyages such a mean speed. Not a single one of them travels Eastwards, while the number able to do so and actually steaming faster, all in the Atlantic trade between Europe and America, are equal in number to the fingers on both hands.

LANDING OF PASSENGERS FROM THE MAIL STEAMERS.

As has been the case each year, on the arrival of the largest of the P. and O. steamers, with from 400 to 500 passengers on board, considerable confusion has existed on the Bunder, with the result that animated correspondence has appeared in the columns of the daily press condemning the arrangements and all concerned. As the creation of the Ballard Pier was, to some extent, due to the protests lodged by this Chamber on more than one occasion, regarding the want of a more convenient landing stage especially in the monsoon, than afforded by the Apollo Bunder, we again addressed both the Port Trust and the P. and O. Company after the arrival of the India last October, and pointed out which, in our opinion, were the weak points in the arrangements. The matter is still under the consideration of the Collector of Customs and P. and O. Superintendent. The former suggested, and is now carrying out, a plan for collecting the customs dues on board, an arrangement which is working fairly well at present, because the arrival season is practically over and the number of passengers coming in is exceedingly small. But that it will be feasible next October to January, I do not for a moment believe, when vessels of the size of the India and Caledonia, with a full load of passengers arrive. There will then not be room on board, nor time for the Customs declarations to be examined and duty collected in a reasonable time. We are of opinion that in the first place the P. and O. Superintendent should take steps, with Police assistance if necessary, to prevent other than recognised Agents boarding their vessels : that the baggage should be landed and sorted at the Ballard Pier in more space than at present, before its owners follow in the Company's launches. With the crush of 400 to 500 passengers, which must be expected now at the beginning of each season in vessels of the size of the India and Caledonia, it is clear to us that unless the Ballard is extend the confusion which annually arises cannot be obviated. This must be done and as I mentioned, when the Pier was building, should have been done, when it was ascertained that the extra cost of doubling its width would not then exceed if I recollect aright, Rs. 65,000. But, gentlemen, as one of the representatives of this Chamber on the Board of the Trust, I am bound to point out an important factor for your consideration. The complaints which have been mada have been mainly directed against the Port Trust, a body which is in the happy position of having to pay the piper without the privilege of calling for the time. Now what has it done to meet the dificulty ? It has so far spent over four lakhs of rupees in building and fitting out the Pier and dredging round it, for which not an anna of return in the shape of revenue has been received. The Trust has no control over the landing arrangements in any shape or form, and it is only right, therefore, that the public should know who are the responsible persons or concerns. The revenue received, goes entirely to the Customs, and personally I am of opinion, that if the entire arrangements for landing and collecting the Customs duties were left in the hands of the P. and O. and Port Trust officials and the Trust remunerated, as it is by the Municipality for collecting the Octroi, the existing difficulties would be surmounted and the proceedings conducted in a reasonable and in as expeditious a manner as it is possible when 400 to 500 passengers and their baggage have to be landed.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENERAL LIST OF COMMERCIAL CAUSES IN THE HIGH COURT.

In regard to the establishment of a general list of commercial causes in the High Court, you will see we have been in communication with the Chief Justice and Judges, and I trust before long we may secure what we propose. I will only add that, as stated in the report, the majority of mercantile men prefer a reasonable compromise, even when the final result of a suit is a practical certainty, to the delays and expense of litigation due to the present procedure of the Supreme Court. The introduction of a measure in the Imperial Legislative Council, just before the close of the year, entitled a Bills of Sale Act, we have appointed a special Committee, under your new Chairman, to consider, and I shall, not, therefore, comment upon it.

THE MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

This has not worked quite so smoothly as in recent years due, the officials state, to the closer supervision possible with a larger staff employed since the imposition of the import duties. As one who strongly advocated the introduction of the measure and the benefit derived from which has been very far reaching, I am loath to complain of its handling in Bombay. The strict observance of the letter of the law is doubtless necessary, but if the spirit of it is not evaded, I have failed to see in several instances brought to my notice, where any real objection lies. Cases have occurred in which importers have been compelled to incur heavy charges for telegraphing to foreign countries to mark certain goods previously purchased in accordance with the views of the local Custom House, only to find a few months afterwards, that the Government of India on reference from the Collector of another port, has ruled that the orders imposed in Bombay were unnecessary.

REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

The failure of an attempt of this character at the Custom House in Calcutta, has only served to confirm the opinion of a leading Bombay counsel to this Chamber in 1881 of the inutility of such a measure in India. Proof of prior usage is all we require. The importance of a Court for the trial of commercial cases in this country is frequently shown by the apparent impossibility of getting Judges to view the infringement of trade marks in the way mercantile men do. The fraudulent imitater under the circumstances, declines to refer the trade mark in dispute to the opinion of a commercial body, knowing that his chances of continued profit by its use are fairly good in the one case, as against absolute prohibition in the other.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAPH VOCABULARY.

The objection to the compulsory use of an Official Telegraph Vocabulary is universal, but though the proposal has been postponed, it is said indefinitely, it is evidently only held in abeyance till a new edition has been compiled, the crude character of the first one having been universally condemned. The object in view is no doubt laudable, and, if successful, will meet with ready sale, provided it is an improvement on the work of men like Whitelaw, Agar, and others. But to secure this result, we had to remind the Director-General of Telegraphs, we could be no party to the official utilisation of copyright vocabularies, devised by men who had made codification a lifelong study and for whose labour we had paid, many of us, large sums of money. Doubtless this view, of the matter did not strike the Director-General, or I feel sure he would never have made the suggestion.

TELEGRAPH CHARGES.

Our continued efforts to secure reductions in Telegraph charges, have met with partial success, and it should urge us to keep on worrying till we secure a reasonable scale all round. The rise in exchange has also assisted in the same direction, for it must be borne in mind that the scale of charges is on a gold basis. To Singapore *via* Madras, the rate per word has been reduced from Rs. 2-10 to 1-15, to Java from Rs. 2-13 to Rs. 1-13, to Sumatra from Rs. 3-7 to Rs. 2-6, to Hongkong from Rs. 4 to Rs. 1-15, and to Shanghai from Rs. 5-5 to Rs. 1-15, but the concession, for some unknown reasons applicable to Japan and the Phillipine Islands, has been held in abeyance and we still have to disburse Rs. 7-1 per word to the former and Rs. 5-5 to the latter. That we should continue to have to pay Rs. 3-4 to Europe is merely an indication of the limit of extortion we have to submit to from the Cable Companies.

THE PORT TRUST.

Under the existing exceptional circumstances, you will not be surprised to learn that the revenue returns compared with the corresponding period last year, show a falling off. The deficit is, however, at present surprisingly small. Nevertheless the year's returns must, I fear, show a decrease, both on last year and the Budget. Since the Trust was formed in June, 1873, its capital debt has risen from 211⅞ lakhs to nearly 507 lakhs, the annual interest on which has increased from 6¼ to 21½ lakhs. In the same period the revenue has risen from 8½ to over 49 lakhs, and the expenditure, other than for interest, from 3½ to 27 lakhs. The aggregate surplus in the three and twenty years is 38 1-2 lakhs or Rs. 1,07,000 per annum, a record of remarkable progress. The Trust has been very fortunate in its successive Chairmen, and in none more so than in Mr. Hughes, the present incumbent, while I am sure I am only echoing the general opinion when I say it would be difficult to secure the co-operation of better, more active or more courteous officers than the heads of the various departments with whom we are constantly in contact. In theory, the Trust exists for the advantage and assistance of trade, and that theory is carried out I know to the letter. In the 80s. the Trust each year secured a large surplus and the efforts of our representatives resulted in a very marked reduction in the rates charged. In the present decade it has not been so fortunate the net balance of the past seven years being (somewhat adverse). There is a reserve fund, however, of 13¾ lakhs, at the par value of the securities, while the opinion of the public as to the stability of the Trust is shown by the trustees having been able last year to float a 3½ per cent. loan at an average rate of 101'4. As an instance of the tact displayed in handling a difficult matter, I could instance a recent incident. On the outbreak of the plague, the labour contractors appealed for assistance to the Chairman to check a probable exodus of the men. They stated that if a Port Trust Hospital was started, to which the sick employees would be sent, they would remain. Their wishes were met by the Board, a building was promptly run up on their Santa Cruz property, and the labourers have held to their bargain. Not a single death has occurred among them from the plague, pretty conclusive evidence that the disease does not at all events lurk in our exportable produce. You will doubtless recollect the scheme which was placed before you in 1895, regarding a Port Trust railway. The practical point of the criticism which the scheme met with from us was that the storage space proposed to be provided at Mazagon was inadequate and should at least be doubted. A complete revision of this portion of the plans has fully met the objection. The scheme, thus revised was referred last June or July for reconsideration at the hands of the Railway Companies, with proposals for working the line. I am glad to say that the B. B. and C I Railway takes a favourable view of the scheme and is prepared to co-operate with the Trustees in carrying it out. The G. I. P. Railway, on the other hand, in a reply just received, are not so favorably disposed and are inclined to take the same view as the minority of our members, and I fear the company will not be convinced until the futility of the alternatives they have suggested is demonstrated. A little give-and-take on both sides should, however, get over the objections, and I hope before long matters may be arranged satisfactorily. The Trustees are to a man convinced of the necessity of the scheme being carried out as speedily as possible, and it is as well that this Chamber should carefully reconsider the project when the time arrives. We must look ahead and be prepared for contingencies which eighteen months ago well did not dream of. The cleaning of grain in Mandvi, an admitted nuisance, has been the source of frequent and growing complaints by the increasing population, and the time is not for distant if indeed it has not yet arrived, when the Municipality may justly ask, and the authorities insist upon the nuisance being removed. I would earnestly beg the few members who disapproved of the original scheme to reconsider the matter by the light of recent experience, so that your representatives may press forward the views of an individed Chamber in this very important matter.

CROP REPORTS.

Thanks to the energy and systematic way in which he has proceeded, we can congratulate Mr. O'Conor, the Director-General of Statistics, on the great improvement in the crop reports since he was appointed to the post he now holds. But he is powerless to tabulate, if the Agricultural Deparments of the various provinces are unable to provide reliable data. Bombay under Mr. Ozane, has gone ahead of all others in being able to secure fairly reliable returns of area and yield in the Native States under this Government, and I fail to see why the Directors in other British Provinces under similar conditions are not equally in a position to give us returns of real value. Take cotton for instance. The final return of the yield of the last crop, being a summary of the provincial ones, was estimated by the Government of India at 2,300,000 bales as compared 2,069,000 bales in the previous season, and an average yield of about 2,250,000 bales. An analysis of these reports has been a hobby of mine ever since they began to be issued, and I have endeavoured, from time to time, to secure information from local sources, official and commercial, to account for the considerable excess of cotton which annually came into sight above the Government returns. The worst compiled and most unreliable estimates are those of the Madras Presidency, where not only is no attempt made to ascertain the area under cultivation and the probable yield in the Zamindaries, but the outturn in British territory is absurdly underestimated. I was glad to notice that the Madras Chamber had taken up the matter, and I hope they will not rest contested till they secure an improvement. The estimates of acreage and yield in the Nizam's territory apparently only attempt to account for the State lands, those of the Jageers, a large area, being omitted. But a fraction of the entire outturn is accounted for officially. The returns from the Native States in Rajputana and Central India are, I am inclined to think, rather more reliable, though here again the yield is as a rule, underestimated. But this is a prevailing error in practically every province, so much so that less than two-thirds of the crop is usually accounted for. With the approval of the Committee I have altered in our present report the form in which reference is made to our leading product, and I trust it will prove useful. On the returns of the *calendar* year I place no value, but they have been added to the ones for each season merely to show the annual supply. Of the correctness of the returns compiled by the Chamber, both of receipts and clearances, there can be no doubt, and I am equally satisfied that those issued annually, by the Mill Owners Association are as correct as it is possible to have them. I think a comparison of the tables at pages 23 and 24 will confirm this view. I have placed the last Indian crops at 3,270,000 bales, nearly a million bales in excess of the official estimate because we knew that 1,104,000 bales were exported to Europe, and 344,000 to Japan, China, and other Eastern foreign ports, a total of 1,448,000 bales. The Mills consumed, 1,409,000 bales, and if he add the official estimate of a few years ago for local consumption at 413,000 bales we reach the aggregate I have mentioned. That the present crop is a good deal smaller than its predecessor there can be no question, but how much less we shall be better able to prognosticate when the official ideas of yield which have yet to reach us are weighed in the balance with commercial opinions. Ever since our Secretary penned his comments, there has been a distinct deterioration in Guzerat and Kathiawar owing to climatic causes.

THE CHAMBER'S STATISTICAL PUBLICATION.

Each year at the request of members interested, we have added information and improved returns. To many persons in, as well as outside the Chamber, many of our compilations prove of value, for we have subscribers to several of them among the general public, while to officials, who have asked for some of them, we are glad to reciprocate for the assistance they afford us. I do not suppose many of you know the labour required to enable us to issue, as an example, the tabulated returns of the receipts of produce into Bombay which reaches members each morning, and which shows the actual weight of each of the principal exportable products, from the principal railway stations, as well as by sea, in the 24 hours up to 6 p. m. the previous evening. The railborne trade being returned in maunds —I wonder who is responsible for the introduction of such a barbarous standard ?—has to be reduced, after the day's labours are over, to an intelligent denominator. The cwt., a weight which, thank Heaven, is observed in the seaborne returns and which Mr. O'Conor has promised us will be introduced into his vastly improved Rail returns. Later on, when I rise to propose the resolution of which we have given notice, I will show what these valuable returns of ours cost us.

THE FAMINE.

It is unnecessary for me to say very much on the serious aspect of the famine with which we are face to face. By the end of January 2,087,000 souls were on the relief works, or receiving gratuitons relief in India of which nearly 300,000 were in our own Presidency, in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country, in fact practically the whole of the Eastern side of the ghats from the Nerbudda to the borders of Mysore, with a population of over nine millions. Thanks to the prompt and early steps taken by the Government of this Presidency, in starting relief camps, the appalling sight of living skeletons, which met the gaze twently years ago in Southern India is not likely to be seen this year. I have a vivid recollection of that famine, when trade, except in grain, principally imported from Calcutta, was all we had to deal in. The stagnation was worse than we are now experiencing—a statement possibly difficult for many of you to understand. Fortunately, the northern portion of the Bombay Presidency has secured good average crops, but naturally with scarcity elsewhere prices of food-grains have risen materially. Supplies at present show no signs of exhaustion, and with a considerable portion of the population away, we are locally overstocked for the time being. If pressure is felt later on, there is little doubt, I think, that we shall be able to supply all requirements from Burmah and elsewhere. The decision of the Government of India, to follow the advice of the Famine Commissioners of 1880 and to leave private trade to meet food requirements is undoubtedly sound. It has never failed as has been asserted and will not, so long as traders are able to despatch grain to the required centres by railways. Twenty years ago in Madras the difficulty was to get trucks, even on the single line which then existed. At present the decrease in the prevailing epidemic is what we have to look to, before any improvements in the commerce of Western India can be expected.

THE PLAGUE.

And now, gentlemen, I will, as briefly as possible, touch upon a topic which is seriously affecting the trade of this port, apart from the still more serious loss it is causing by mortality in our midst. 1896 was an abnormally hot year, the hottest but one—1865—I see in a record of fifty-one years. The rainfall, too, was even more remarkable, being unprecedented. The S.-W. monsoon set in about the 16th or 17th of June, though about seven inches of rain had been registered at the Observatory in the earlier days of the month. Without a single day's omission the rain continued for just two months, the aggregate recorded in that period being 76 inches, or slightly over our mean annual fall, the fall in June being about 8 inches, of July 11¾ inches, and of August 7½ inches, in excess of the average. In a few earlier years Bombay received quite as much rain, but no record exists of so little in September and subsequent months as two inches, the average being about fifteen inches. The excessive precipitation in two instead of four months, falling on a surface, the subsoil of which has been overdiluted with an excessive water-supply, excessive because only a fraction of Bombay is drained, may possibly be one of the causes of the epidemic which has and is creating such sad havoc in this city. I express no opinion, I only say it possibly may, and I see from a leader in a local paper that others are of this opinion. I have learnt, in the past few weeks, how easy it is for men to dogmatise on subjects which they think they have studied, but which a few days' later events prove they really know nothing about. Of the prevailing epidemic, its advent, its cause and it, progress we know very little. The only remedy which is apparent to us as laymen, is the improvement which has taken place in such portions of the city as have had the benefit of a thorough cleaning and limewashing and we earnestly wished that this system of purification could be not only extended, but pushed on in quarters where the disease has not yet appeared in a marked degree, and indeed throughout the whole of the city. To ask, or to suggest to every house-owner or tenant todo so is hopeless, especially, when it is borne in mind that a large number of them have found it convenient to absent themselves after closing and securing the doorsand windows to prevent ingress to the burglar, but to assist as seems probably to breed the disease which, we are told, dies if its bacillus is exposed to the light and air of Heaven. The action of the Municipality in combathing the disease has naturally been freely commented upon. I have been urged from time to time to set the machinary of the Chamber in motion to express our disapproval of the action, or inaction, of the Municipal Executive, and to suggest every conceivable remedy, each one of which I was assured, would, if adopted, kill the plague. But your Committe agreed with me that it would be wiser for us to hold our hands. We considered, that, with a specially appointed Committee of medical experts to advise Government and indirectly the Municipality it was not only unnecessary, but uncalled for, for us to place our amateur views before the local authorities. Our files, gentlemen, contain no letters either to, or from, the Municipal Executive, or the Government of Bombay, on the subject, because we have endeavoured to maintain the reputation of the Chamber by avoiding correspondence which it was patent to us, on ascertaining the facts from personal enquiry and discussion, was unnecessary. To take up the time of officers, overworked as they have been and are, by asking them to place on paper their reasons for not doing what we—eminent, scientific and medical authorities as we no doubt consider ourselves—deemed to be the proper course to pursue. We preferred to leave this to the intelligent writers, who invariably rush to the front on occasions such as the present one. We have endeavoured to keep our heads cool, when so many have lost theirs. We do not require documentary proof to show you, the members of the Chamber, what we have done. It may be necessary in another place, so that the constituents of the members concerned, may at all events imagine that their interests are watched and safeguarded, even if a hurried visit from ahill retreat has to be risked for a couple of hours in a month. It is undoubtedly safer to pen your remarks to the press, omitting your address than even visiting the city. Drastic measures are easily proposed and possibly not difficult of execution, but the officer who proposes to take such measures as the responsible authority has to count the cost —pecuniary, being under present circumstances the least improtant—and consider the consequences, an also whether he has the power to carry them out. If irresponsible writers would only take the trouble to ascertain the facts of the position they omit ti put their themselves the trouble of writing what they put their names to, and the public from being misled. There is, however, one matter which calls for attention, and I trust response from the Health Officer, and that is as regards the correctness or otherwise of the daily mortality returns. The weekly ones which are certified to by the signature of Dr. Weir being appended to them we must accept as authentic, but we are strongly of opinion that it would be better in every way if the daily returns were equally authenticated as emanating from his office. There should be no doubt whatever on this head, and that any should exist is, to say the least, lamentable.

THE MUNICIPALITY.

Gentlemen, I am often asked why it is more mercantile men do not assist in local self-government by joining the Corporation. I have personal knowledge of the interest shown in this direction by each of our last three Governors, and I should be afraid to estimate the number of letters penned by Lord Harris to members of the Chamber, urging them to accept nomination. But the answer has usually been of the same tenor, viz., want of time. Now, is this a valid excuse ? In face of existing conditions, I think it is. Under the Municipal Act a meeting is bound to be held once a month, but in practice, owing to the length of agenda paper, the frequent adjournments practically result in not only meetings every week but even twice in every seven days. As these meetings are called for 3 o'clock and last till 5 and later, is it surprising that business men are unable to spare time to attend them ? It is not, as I have heard stated by one who should have been the last to make the statement, that the absence of fees is the cause, because many of us attend considerably more meetings weekly where the gold mohur is unheard of, than when they are to be picked up. The eloquence displayed by some of the "City Fathers"—I believe that the correct term of abuse—is marvellous, but it is impossible, as the result shows for business to be discussed on business principles in a body of 72 members unless there is a limitation to the length of the speeches and yet other means devised such as the one adopted by the House of Commens. I cannot help thinking that if the nnmber of members were reduced to say 25, work could be better done and long delayed sanitary and other improvements carried on. Instead of only a quarter of the city being sewered, the whole must be completed without delay. The state of the subsoil ought to convince every one of the absolute necessity of this. One word more, and I have finished. To the eminent becteriologists now in Bombay, our heartfelt thanks are already due for what they have done. That one at least of them promises to enhance his reputation, is already foreshadowed. May his experiments prove the success and the blessing they indicate, and I trust that the occupant of this Chair and the Committee for the time being will, when the time arrives, be among the first in the field, to recognise his self-imposed labours and assist, however feebly, to carve his name in the temple of scientific research, where his great master Pasteur, has already. had his name inscribed. (London cheers).

THE NEW CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

Mr. Abercrombie said : I have great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report that is now laid on the table. The Committee have as usual dealt with a large number of matters of great interest to the commercial community, but after the epitome of the work that you have just had from your chairman, I do not think that there is much for me to add. Railway matters have as usual engaged a good deal of the attention of the Committee, and in this connection it is to be regretted that the B. B. C. I. Railway have not been able to meet the wishes of the Chamber in the matter of rates charged for wheat and seeds from Delhi and Agra, &c. These two cities being about equally distant from Bombay and Calcutta it seems very hard that we cannot be charged as cheaply as Calcutta, but I notice from page 10 that all hope is not removed from us, as the Home Board considers, &c. We are indebted largely to the Hon. Mr. Beaufort's industry for the very clear tables of cotton growths and export figures, and also for the altered form of the wheat export table, and in this direction our special thanks are, I think, due to our chairman for his energy. Mr. Beaufort has explained at some length why the Committee do not seem to have taken any active measures in the way of addressing Government or other authority about the terrible scourge that has befallen us in this plague. I will not touch on the sorrow it must have brought into thousands of homes. I will remark only upon its effect on commerce. It is no exaggeration to say that business has been and is paralysed by the exodus of the people, and even to-day we cannot confidently say that the efforts of the Municipality, great as they have undoutedly been, have met with any marked measure of success. Certain districts are undoubtedly better, but the total death-rate remains terrible, and the scare caused thereby has had wide-reaching and disastrous effect upon all branches of trade. The only remedy seems to be in working on vigorously at the cleansing of all parts of the city under trained, responsible, and resolute management. There seems also to be urgent need of some stricter handling of the laws and powers of condemning insanitary dwellings. It is satisfactory to find from the accounts published that the Chamber has this year succeeded in covering its expenses. I now wish to make a few remarks on the rates charged for the conveyance of goods to up-country stations.

RAILWAY CHARGES.

The Railway definition of the goods to be referred to is piece-goods or cotton yarn in bales pressed or in boxes. The rates quoted will be for the railway maund of 82 lbs. and a fraction. The first place I take is Nagpur, a terminus on the G. I. P. line, and also a terminus of the Bengal-Nagpur line. 520 miles distant from Bombay, and from Calcutta, 759 miles. Rate for abovementioned piece-goods and (or) yarn from Bombay is Rs. 2-1-5 per maund ; and from Calcutta Rs. 1-7-9 per maund. Memoranda from the two railway companies giving these rates are produced. The B.-N. memorandum adds "at owner's risk." Now, "owner's risk" as distinguished from "railway company's risk" is no doubt an important thing where crockery and glassware are concerned, but with baled and (or) tin-cased goods it is I think a matter of little or no consequence. The form of indemnity required to be given to the railway company is given on page 528 of the East Indian Railway book, and I think it is such as any sender would sign who had goods to despatch of the difinition already stated. A native yarn merchant whom I know specially visited the Central Provinces some few months ago in order to find out why it was that he could not sell more yarn in this direction, Nagpur was one of the places he visited, and he returned saying that Bombay railway freight was 1 to 1½ anna a bundle more than Calcutta. I make out that this statement is about correct. The difference between the rate I have just given is 9 annas 8 pies for every 82 lbs., and it is easy to see that by this a 9lb. grey shirting piece must cost us about 1 anna 1 pie more than Calcutta, a difference that is absolutely killing to Bombay trade. The next place I take is Jubbulpore, also a terminus of the G. I. P. and of the East Indian Railway, from Bombay 616 miles, and from Calcutta 784 miles. The rate is the same in both cases, viz., Re. 1-4-7. Here I ask you to note two things. 1st. The G. I. P. run 616 miles to Jubbulpore for Re. 1-4-7, although they charge Rs. 2-1-9 for the 520 miles to Nagpur. This is an anomaly. 2nd. The distance is 168 miles against the Calcutta line, which extra distance they ignore and charge the same as the Bombay line can do it for. I now pass on to the all-important station of Cawnpore. The G. I. P. take the traffic to Itarsi, and from there it goes on by the Indian Midland. Cawnpore is on the main line of the East Indian Railway—distance from Bombay 839 miles ; and from Calcutta 684 miles ; against Bombay 155 miles. Now, in the case of Jubbulpore I showed you that the East Indian Railway ignored the extra 168 miles they had to run, and charged the Bombay rate, but here at Cawnpore the G. I. P. and Indian Midland do not follow the lead given them by the East Indian : they actually charge us over 20 per cent. more because they have to run this extra distance of 155 miles. Bombay rate is Rs. 2-3-1 ; and the Calcutta rate Re. 1-12-8. The difference between those rates is 6 annas 5 pies per maund against Bombay, or roughly speaking, about ¼ anna per piece in a 9 lbs. shirting—a difference which is quite enough to throttle our trade and prevent all progress.

CALCUTTA'S ADVANTAGES IN FREIGHTS.

From the Bengal Chamber returns I take the following :—From 1st January to 31st October 1896, Piece-goods Bombay to Cawnpore, 51,811 maunds ; and from Calcutta to Cawnpore, 117,318 maunds,—showing that during that period Calcutta did just 2¼ times as much as Bombay. Now I have to draw attention to the Bombay Baroda line. They also run into Cawnpore a circuitous route via Agra. They cover a distance of 1,071 miles or 231 miles further than by the G. I. P. and Indian Midland route. They have a break of gauge at Ahmedabad with its attendant expense and delay, and yet they can charge the same rate as by the G. I. P. route, viz., Rs. 2-3-1 ; in other words, the G. I. P. allow the East Indian to have the lion's share of the traffic because there is a distance of 155 miles in their favour, and they content themselves with sharing what is left with the B. B. and C. I., although the latter have 233 miles against them. The next place is Agra—distance by B B and C I 848 miles, G I P route 841 miles, and E I R 841 miles. Calcutta rate is Rs. 2-3-0, and Bombay rate Rs. 2-3-1. No doubt a trifling difference, but against Bombay. But now come to Delhi—distance by B B and C I R, 883 miles, East Indian 954 miles, and G I P route 981 miles. The BB and C I Ry and the East Indian quote Rs 2-6-4 ; G I P route, Rs 2-8-11. The G I P having 30 more miles to run make this substantial difference —Bengal Chamber returns show, 1st January to 31st October 1893 Bombay to Delhi, piece-goods 64,926 maunds ; and Calcutta to Delhi, Piece-goods 77,674 maunds. Now in Cawnpore where the rate was against us Calcutta did 2¼ times as much here with equal rates between the B B & C I and East Indian, Calcutta only does 1-5th more, and if we had a better hold of the Cawnpore trade I believe we should be evener still. Cawnpore and Delhi merchants are closely connected, and firms finding Calcutta cheapest for the former place would be likely to make their purchases for the latter at the same place. The only other place I wish to mention is Hyderabad (Deccan), the junction for which with the Nizam's State Railway is Wadi. The G I P run 67 miles past Wadi to Raichore. Distance Bombay to Hyderabad 491 miles ; and Madras to Hyderabad 533 miles. The Bombay charge is Rs. 1-12-8 ; and that of Madras Rs. 1-10-11. Now, I do think in these days of keen competition that the G I P might do better for us than this. From Cawnpore in the north right through the Central Provinces to Raichore in the south we have to rely upon the G I P for the conveyance of our goods up-country, and unless they do this at rates which competing railways cannot beat how can our business prosper or improve. I do not think anyone will contradict me when I say that Bombay can lay down goods cheaper in India than Calcutta, but of what use is a saving of 10s. or 15s. in ocean freight against an excess railway charge of 6 and 9 annas a maund, as in the case of Cawnpore and Nagpur. The G. I. P. can do everything for us if they will. Their traffic into Bombay is I believe much greater than their traffic out of Bombay, which means the despatch of empty trucks up-country, and this should surely induce them to take our goods at economical rates and endeavour thereby to increase their outward traffic which would most assuredly follow.

Mr. W. P. Saville said :—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—As your junior representative in the Corporation I think it only right to inform you of the work that I have seen is being carried by the Executive of the Municipality to stamp out the dire disease that has come among us. I have visited the worst parts of the city with Mr. James, who has some 3,000 men at work lime-washing houses, and using 400 to 509 tons of lime a week, besides pouring tons of disinfectant down the drains and sprinkling powder every where ; putting in drains cutting off water from chawls and giving stand-pipe outside. Not only houses that have been attacked are being taken in hand, but every house in the city is being cleaned, and the executive are fighting to get in advance of the plague which flies about in a most mysterious way, and they never know from day to day where it will be next. Strong measures are being used, and I saw one lot of chawls where 150 cases had occurred and where all the inmates had run away, leaving their places locked up, 400 rooms in these chaws were broken open, limewashed, and the tiles removed. In another part we heard of a death that had just occurred for the first time in that quarter and immediately sixty men were put on to lime wash that row. Two large fires were lighted at each end of the row, all the clothes found in the room where the men died were burnt, and to show that the others living there appreciated what was being done for them, they not only cleared out their places at once for the men to come in and lime-wash, but brought out their rubbish and burnt it. In very few places where the houses have been thoroughly lime-washed has the disease again returned. You will be pleased to hear that Dr. Pollen's fund has been found of great assistance, and it has been the cause of bringing to light many cases that might not have been heard of as relations have come forward to ask for help for their sick, which were at once visited. I have also been to Tank Bunder Burial ground, and you will be pleased to hear that a portion of the ground is now ready to be taken into use. I have only mentioned work that I saw carried out during a few hours, it is weary and depressing work for the Executive which they are carrying on day and night. I am sure, gentlemen, you will agree with me when I say that I consider the thanks of the members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce are due to the Executive of the Municipality for the noble manner in which they are labouring at the risk of their lives to stamp out the plague. I trust that the Corporation at some later date will see their way to substantially reward those servants who are doing their duty so nobly, and saving the lives of thousands. As reards Corporation meetings I cannot help remarking that it would certainly lead to business being put through more expediently if some of the members were to remember that it was not a debating society, Already the January agenda paper will take, us well into February, and at this rate we may hope to work through the same agenda paper about December next. The Corporation have two meetings a week throughout the month, whereas two a month should suffice for the work that is actually done. These meetings are a very great tax on any business man's time, but I feel sure that so long as we take a right to send two representatives to the Corporation members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce will never be found wanting to come forward and do their duty for the city. In conclusion Mr. Saville referred to the need for railway development.

THE PLAGUE AND THE MILL INDUSTRY.

Mr. S. M. Moses said : Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—We meet once more to receive the valuable and interesting report of the work performed by the retiring Committee during their term of office. You will observe that they have watched most carefully the interests of the members on the various subjects of Commerce, Law, and Shipping. Our best thanks are due to them. Gentlemen, since we met last year, we have been, and are now passing through a period of unprecedented depression. We have been visited by a pestilence of a virulent kind, the cure for which has not yet been discovered by the Medical profession. It has well nigh devastated our once "Beautiful Bombay." Her children desert her in dispair, leaving behind them, their locked homes and shops, and watch from their places of refuge the statistics of the victims from bubonic plague which appear in our daily journals, only too eager to return as soon as it diminishes, but unfortunately such a diminution does not manifest itself as yet. Every branch of industry and commerce has been dislocated by this visitation, and none suffer more than our mill industry. This was so flourishing only in June last, bvt by this unexpected calamity is now thrown from prosperity to dispair. The mill-hands are running away by thousands for fear of their lives. The millowners hold out to them every temptation to stay ; some giving them their daily wages, in order that they might be in a position to quit their work at a moment's notice (without suffering any pecuniary loss) as soon as they feel at all indisposed or at the appearance of the "unwelcome visitor" in their neighbourhood. Some mills have spread mat sheds in their compound in order to place their men beyond the "plague regions ;" while others have been philanthropic enough to supply them with their daily rations gratis. All these temptations did not prevent them from deserting their posts. The mills were working with a-third of their usual complement of operatives, but since December's pay was given, their numbers have been further reduced. The mills are now working under great difficulties. The scare which is now existing amongst the natives is ill-advised. For, instead of remaining at their posts, cleansing their houses, disinfecting them, and assisting the Municipality in their efforts to fight with the disease they go to their native countries to die of hunger ! Their elders are much to be blamed by absenting themselves from the scene at the present crisis. What are the ignorant masses to do, but to follow their example ?

THE FAMINE FUND.

Happily the timely aid which was instituted by H. E. Lord Sandhurst and taken up by the Viceroy at Calcutta a month later and the Lord Mayor in London by starting an Indian Famine Relief fund ; the subscription being headed by her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empres who always keeps her watchful eyes on her law-abiding and faithful Indian subjects. The fund was cheerfully subscribed to by other members of the Royal Family and the English gentry who always sympathise with their poor Indian brethren and come to their help in the time of need. I am pleased to say the subscription has already amounted to a large sum, which will be the means of saving many a family in India from starvation and ruin. (Applause). Let us hope that the energectic measures that are now adopted by our Municipality in extensively lime-washing our great city, &c., may soon succeed in stamping out the disease from our midst and Bombay, will regain its former prosperity and splendour ! (Cheers).

EXCHANGE.

If you will permit me gentlemen, I will say a few words regarding exchange. Owing to the impending scarcity and famine and not knowing what calls might have been made on the resources of Government, the Secretary of State for India thought it prudent to reduce gradually his drawings of Council Bills from 60 to 20 lakhs a week in October last. This, coming at a time when the export season of indigo had just begun, caused exchange to rise to 1s. 3⅜d. At one time it looked as if the goal of 1s. 4d. per rupee would have been reached. But as usual silver came into competition and the banks supplied their wants from that source. No less than a million and a half sterling worth of the white metal was imported here during the last quarter of 1896, *viz.*, £690,000 in October, £500,000 in November and £310,000 in December last. Whereupon exchange at once dropped to 1s. 3d. per rupee. It is now quoted a 1s. 3⅜d. but the banks are chary to draw even at a reduction of 3-16 to ¼d. for March next, having no confidence in the stability of exchange. There is no doubt that so long as no legislation is enacted to check silver from entering freely into competition with the Council Bills, so long will there be an element of uncertainty in exchange, and it would baffle the calculations of the shrewdest financier to judge the course of events even for a few weeks ahead. Violent fluctuations in exchange gentlemen, does no good either to the import or the export trade. Looking at the standpoint of political economy it will be a red-letter day for India when exchange attains the point at which it will pay the merchant and the banker to present their sovereign or its equivalent of weight in gold to obtain Rs. 15 for it. The enhancement of exchange will swell the Indian Exchequer and enable our able Finance Minister to abolish the exchange compensation and cotton dutes with a stroke of his prn. (Applause.)

A VINDICATION OF THE CORPORATION.

Mr. George Cotton in seconding the motion said that he was extremely glad that the chairman had referred to the Municipal Corporation whose affairs were at the present moment so eagerly watched both by the Press and the public. Mr. Cotton entered into the history of the origin and development of the Corporation and showed that the revenue and prosperity of the city had increased with the growth of the population. With reference to the remarks that there was a great deal of speecifying and talk at the Corporation the speaker pointed out that the agenda paper of this month contained 40 or 50, items dealing with different matters of importance to the city and the Corporation had besides to deal with some 20 notices of motion all which must necessarily be discussed before the Corporation came to a resolution on them. All that required time and it was no wonder, therefore, that the Corporation had to meet often twice a week to enable them to go through the multifarious items submitted for their consideration. He then paid a high compliment to Mr. Snow, the Municipal Commissioner who he said was working day and night to combat the plague and whose example was followed by the Health Officer, the Drainage Engineer, the Assistant Health Officer and others who devoted the whole of their time and attention to the emergency. It was stated that the property owners predominated in the Corporation and that they carried everything before them. He (Mr. Cotton) did not agree with those who made such a statement because it was only very recently that the Corporation dealt with a resolution in respect of the house-connections in Bombay. In the first place it was resolved to make house-connections at the expense of the Municipality but a few months later the Corporation rescinded the propositon and resolved that the house-connections should be made by the owners and not by the Municipality. That incident conclusively showed that the Corporation was not governed by those who were largely interested in landed properties.

The resolution for the adoption of the report was then put to the vote and carried.

THANKS TO THE OUT-GOING COMMITTEE.

Mr. George Cotton proposed that the thanks of the Chamber be tendered to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, the out-going Committee and the Secretary Mr. John Marshall for the able conducts of the affairs of the Chamber during the last year. He took the opportunity of tendering the most cordial thanks of the Chamber to the chairman, who had been a hard-worker on the committee and who had in previous years done equally good and honest work as their deputy chairman. (Applause.) Mr. Beaufort always took a deep interest in the work of the Chamber and since they were shortly to lose his services on account of his leaving Bombay for some time to come he (Mr. Cotton) did not know what the Chamber would do for their statistics for which Mr. Beaufort had a special aptitude and which he could deal with amply and in a masterful manner.

Mr. McLaren seconded the proposition which was carried by acclamation.

On the motion of Mr. J. L. Syomns seconded by Mr. J. Tintner the following gentlemen were elected members of the Committee for the ensuing year :—Messrs. G. A. Barnett, C. I. E., ; C. J. G. Giro ; C. H. Armstrong ; C. Barboro ; F. A. Reddie ; E. Schoen and J. K. Moir.

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. T. L. Wyatt it was resolved that under rule 5 the subscription by members for copies of all the publications issued by the Chamber should be increased from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per mensem by the substitution of Rs. 20 for Rs. 15 in the last line of the rule.

On the motion of Mr. I. M. Shields seconded by Mr. C. H. B. Forbes, Mr. Clement Poole was re-elected Auditor for the ensuing year.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS.—FEBRUARY 3.

Luard, Lieut, Bengal, 1st King's Shrops L I, on leave, from Calcutta.

Hamber, Capt, Ms, E Lanc Regt, on leave, from Deolali.

DEPARTURES.—FEBRUARY 1.

Fendall, Capt, Hyd Cont, R A, off leave, to Hingoli.

FEBRUARY 2.

Harrington, Lt, Hyd Cont, R A, on leave, to Bolarum.

FEBRUARY 3.

Kukday, Surgn-Lt, Bo, I M S, on duty, to Ahmedabad.

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY COLONEL R. S. BROWN, V.D., COMMANDING B. V. R.

Bombay, 4th February, 1897.

1. The Regiment will parade on Saturday next the 6th instant at 5 p. m. at the Gymkhana end of the parade ground, for Commanding Officer's parade.

Dress—Review order—Khaki.

2. Officer's, N. C. Officer's and Volunteers desirous of attending the proficiency class are requested to send their names to the Adjutant by the 8th instant.

3. Leave of absence has been granted to Vol. G. Turner. "E" Company from 3rd February to 31st March 1897.

4. Government Resolution No 5582, dated 21st December 1896 is published for information :—Bombay Volunteer Rifles.—Surgeon-Lieutenant Frederick Arthur Foy, M. B., C. M., to be Surgeon-Captain with effect from 7th October 1896.

5. It is notified that the Rifle meeting at Coorla will be held from the 15th to 20th instant.—Class-firing for Commanding Officer's prizes must be finished on or before the 13th instant and not the 15th as previously fixed.

BOMBAY LIGHT HORSE.

1. There will be Troop Drill at the Riding School on Friday, the 5th instant, at 7 a.m., Dress—Marching Order.

By order,
C. MOSS, Captain,
Adjutant B. V. R.

NOTICE.

Bombay Volunteer (Light Horse and Rifles) Rifle Association.—There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at Head-quarters, at 6 p.m., to-day (Thursday) the 4th instant.

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY MAJOR G. W. ROUGHTON, COMMANDING B. V. A.

Bombay, 4th February, 1897.

1. There will be 10-inch R. M. L. Gun drill at the Fort and Nesbit Road Head-quarters to-night (Thursday) at 8-45 p.m.

2. The Range Finding Class will meet at the Bhandarwada Reservoir, Mazagon, to-morrow Friday next at 7 a.m., sharp.

3. There will be Class Firing at Coorla to-morrow Friday Recruits are particularly requested to attend. Trains leave the Victoria Terminus at 6, 6-40, and 7-5 a.m. (Bombay time) and Byculla 12 minutes later in each case.

4. The proficiency class will meet at the Byculla Head-quarters to-night.

5. The Corps will parade on Saturday next, the 6th instant, for class firing at Coorla.

Dress.—Drill order without putties.

Trains leave Victoria Terminus at 2-30 3, 3-30, 4-15 and 4-30 p.m., (Bombay time) and Byculla 12 minutes later in each case.

6. The following members having joined are taken on the strength of the Corps from this date and posted as stated against their names :—No. 525 Gr. W. E. West, No. 4 Subn. No. 2 Coy, ; and No. 526 Gr. J. Clarkson, No. 3 Subn., No. 2 Company.

By order,
A. J. PEILE, Lieut. R. A.,
Adjutant B. V. A.

WRITERS AND READERS.

THE English edition of Dr. Nansen's book is nearly all in type, and he has only to conclude his revision of the proofs. Two shorthand writers have been with the explorer almost since he arrived at his home near Christiania. He has practically dictated the book to them and he has absolutely decline to permit of the task being interrupted by any other claims upon him. The work will be in two large volumes, with a fine etched portrait of Nansen.

The history of this portrait is interesting, not to say romantic. It was taken on the day before Nansen left the *fram*, and, moreover, he was his own photographer. The picture shows him in the cabin of his stout little ship. The artist who prepared the etching has had the advantage of recent sittings from its subject. Another feature of the book will be a series of reproductions of sketches in colour made by Nansen. These give a vivid idea of Arctic scenery, and are quite remarkable.

Mr. Murray's new list gives detailed announcements of the further books which he has in preparation. The Duke of Bedford's account of the management of the Russell estates at Thorney and Woburn, will cover a period of eighty. Another old family will be represented in the autobiography of the third Duke of Grafton, which Sir William Anson is editing. The same thing occurs also in reference to a volume of selections from the letters and speeches of the late Earl of Carnarvon. They are being prepared by Sir George Sydenham Clarke, and their subject-matter is indicated by the title, The Defence of the Empire."

Messrs. Innes announce a work by Mr. J. S. Risley, entitled "The Law of War." It is a consideration of the rules recognised by civilised nations in reference to warfare. First, Mr. Risley treats of the general circumstances which are involved in his subject. For the rest he divides his book into two parts, the Law of Belligerency and the Law of Neutrality His broad aim, he remarks, has been to furnish the ordinary reader, in a compendious form, with a exposition of the "rules which actually govern the relations of States in times of war." While it is popular in tone, the volume will also appeal to the specialist.

The new book dealing with auction prices which Mr. J. H. Slater, the editor of "Book Prices Current" has been preparing, will be published at the end of the present month by Mr. Henry Grant, under title of "The Sale Prices of 1896." The whole of the picture sales held during the year are reported, and the book contiains many thousands of entries relating to prints, drawings, manuscripts, coins, and other objects of artistic or antiquariam interest with the purchasers names and the amounts realised in each case. The book is extensively annotated, and the index very full and complete. Special attention has, indeed, been paid to the index, the object being to make this work an easily available register of all the more important articles, other than books, sold by auction during the year. The work is to be continued annually, advances shedts being supplied to subscribers as heretofore.

Lord Ronald Gower has finiehed his transalation of a book which is notable in France. This is the "Letters from Italy" of Charles de Brosses, who made a considerable figure early in the century. He was a Frenchman of parts—of wit and he visited Italy as a young man, of thirty. As Lord Ronald Gower remarks, his desciption of the visit has been treasured in France ever since it first appeared in 1839. But until now, oddly enough, there has been no English translation. The volume will appea at once.

A number of new books are promised by Mesars Archibald Constable during the early part of the spring. One of these is a study of Walt Whiteman by Mr. John Burroughs, a well-known American writer. Another isa novel called "Sister Jane," by that always deightful author Joel Chandler Harris, of Uncle "Remusfame "Then Miss Kate M. Warren is to edit an edition of Spenser's "Faeried Queene," in seperate books—a new departure. The text for the issue has been prapared from the original edition of Spenser's great poem. Yet another volume to be mentioned is one of fiction, "Madge of the Poel," by Mr. William Sharp.

In accepting the dedication of the book by Mr. N Ter Gregor, entitled History of Armenia from the "Earliert Ages to the Present Time" which is published by Mr. John Heywood Mr. Gladstone has written to the author, under date Jan. 5, as follows:—We all, I suppose, have gone through much both of suspense and of depression in this most grievous matter Yet I cannot suppress an obstinate persistent belief that the Powers will ere long feel their disgrace to be intolerable, and will for once let the act wait closely upon the word."

The Clarendon Bress will publish a most immediately, in two parts, with eight or nine maps, the fourth volume of Mr. C.P. Lucass Historical Geography of the British Colones" The volume will deal with South and East Africa, the first part giving a history of South Africa down to the prisent day. the Second including geographical chapters on the British South African Colonies, togather with an account of British Central Africa and British East Africa. Mr. Frowde also announces that to his numerous contributions to the study of Early and Middle English Dr. Sweet has now added a "Students' Dictionary of Anglo-Saxnu." The head words are given in their early West Saxon spelings, the meanings are given, in plain modern English and brevity and consiseness have been aimed at throughout.

The English translation of Bjornson's stories Maghild "and" Dust will be puplished by Mr. Hoinemann.—"Dick Donovan has written a new volume of detective rtores, entitled the "Chronicles of Micheal Danceitch. who is sudposed to beloing to the Russian Secret Police. Messrs. Chatto will publisn the book. Three works of fication will be published from the Bodley Head, Thereare "God's Failures," by Mr. J. S. Fetcher the "Sentsmental Vikings," by Mr. R. V. Risley; and "The Wise and Wayward," by Mr. G. S. Street.

Mr. Edmund Goss's "Seventeenth Century Studies" will be ready in the revised edition at the beginning of next month. "Parisian Beggars." the little volume which Lady Herschell has translated from the French, will be published in a few days by Mr. Arnold, A volume giving the story of the Persian wars as told by Herodotus is announced by Mr. Murray. It is being selected, arranged, and edited as a history reading-bobk by the Rev. C. C. Tancock, at one time the head master of Rossall School. Messrs. Kegan Paul aro about to publish Mr. Benjaman Andrews's sketch of America during the last quarter of a century. The papers originally appeared in Seribnfr's.—The "English Catalogue of Books for 1896" will be issued in a few days by Messrs. Sampson Low.—Mr. Elliot Stook annonces a new volume of social and literary essays by Mr. J. E. A. Brown, entitled "The Four First Things, and Gther Essaps.—An auction sale entirely composed of bookplates (Ex Libris) will be held on the 18th inst. by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson. There are some 300 lots, including about a score in armorial china. This will be the first occasion on which such sale has taken place.

A further increase in the price of rice took place in many districts of Bengal and the North-West Provinces in the first fortnight of this year, as against the last fortnight of the old year. Some few districts reported decreased prices, notably Tippera, which showed a marked improvement in the purchasers' favour of eleven seers in January as compared with 8 6 in December. Wheat prices were stationary almost whithout exception, and but very slight fluctuation was recorded of Indian corn prices. There was but little average alteration in the price of common rice in Assam. Calcutta showed a further lightening of 8·6 to 8.

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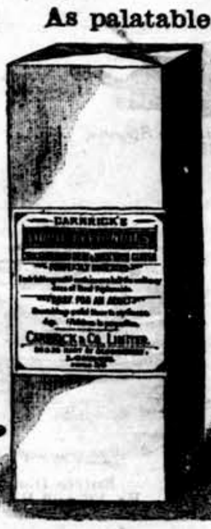

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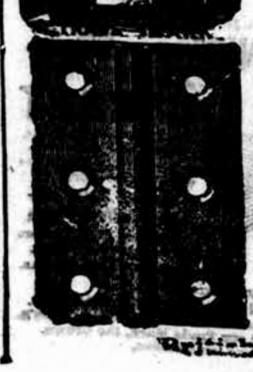

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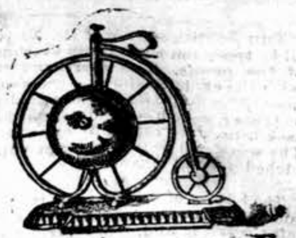

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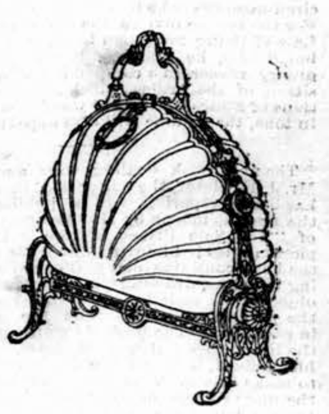

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